



Dear Friend of [Abiding Above](#),

March 2014

This will encourage you! From one of our through-the mail Bible lesson students:

“I’ve learned, true success comes from putting God first in my life. I am learning how to get my priorities right. God comes first always. I’ve learned how to manage my money properly. I don’t ask where it went, I tell it where to go. I learned the wisest and best use of money is using it to win others to Christ. My entire life is built upon my faith in my Creator, Who has endowed me with so many blessings. The secret of a happy life is seeing God in all my circumstances.”

My friend, this is a part of what you are giving to. These things count for eternity. Thank you for giving to the Lord. Lives are being transformed by the renewing of the mind through the Word of God and the indwelling Holy Spirit.

When you receive this newsletter I should be returning home from preaching a revival in Arkansas.

What is a real revival? I’m afraid that many have a wrong view of what a God-sent revival really is. Revival is for those who are saved and yet, sometimes those people who are not born again will realize it and be drawn to Christ for salvation. Revival primarily is intended to deepen the spiritual lives of those who are saved, but carnal.

Paul said in **1 Corinthians 3:1-3** – “*And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. ² I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; ³ for you are still carnal.*”

What do it mean to be carnal? Lewis Sperry Chafer writes in 1919, “*Though saved, the carnal Christians are walking ‘according to the course of this world.’ They are carnal because the flesh is dominating them.*”

For many long years in Baptist life, we saw revivals turn into stand up comedy shows. You know, the guy filled to overflowing with good clean jokes and even makes fun of himself and gets you to laughing at yourself. We are endeared to him right away. He is a great guy, just not God’s man for the pulpit.



And then there are those who preach in such a way to make you feel lost. This will ensure a full altar during the invitation. This is certainly not revival, but an emotional raking over the coals.

A.T. Pierson wrote this in 1892, *“The preacher, as God’s ambassador, is a mediator between God and men. From the Bible, he preaches what he has learned and testifies to what he has seen. And a true exhortation implies that he feels such a deep passion for souls, that are outside of the safe position of believers...that he yearns to rescue them, by persuading them to lay hold of the hope set before them in the gospel.”*

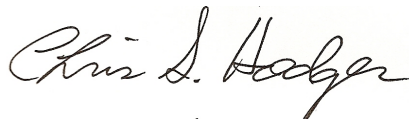
I know you are like-minded with me. We need a genuine revival! Let’s remember! It starts with the individual. Each individual, man or woman, boy or girl has a separate human will apart from all others. When an individual, meaning **“you”** begins practicing throughout each day saying **“no”** to me and **“yes”** to God, revival comes to that person. This frees that person up to become more vocal about his love for our Savior Jesus Christ. As a result, this individual revival spreads to church-wide revival and then to the workplace in your city.

Wilbur Chapman once said, *“Our wills are ours to make them Thine.”*

Let’s you and I choose not to look around and see what everyone else is doing, but instead say like Dwight L. Moody said as a young shoe salesman, *“I will be that man!”*

Thank you for praying for us, and please make the most generous offering you can. We sure need you!

Abiding above,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris S. Hodges". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Chris S. Hodges
President
Abiding Above Ministries
Colossians 3:1-3