



Dear Friend of *Abiding Above*,

November 2013

Praise God for each day that we can love God with all of our hearts and minds and others as we are commanded to love them. In ourselves we do not have the kind of love that the Lord commands. But God never commands us to do something without enabling us to do it. To love God and to love others with one's whole heart naturally leads to a life of service for our Lord. It is only as God's love flows through us to others and we yield ourselves to Him that we can be channels for His love.

“ We continue to share the gospel with every person, encourage spiritual growth in every believer, by the power of the Holy Spirit, and to the glory of God. ”

This year is soon over and we are looking forward to 2014. As we walk by faith through the doors God is opening for us, we are simply trusting in Him. Without you we could not reach the lost at home and around the world. When you stand back and look at what God is doing through Abiding Above Ministries, it is truly amazing! We are living by faith moment-by-moment, looking to Jesus, living in the Scriptures and leaning on the Spirit.

My friend, God has entrusted each of us with the ministry of sharing the good news with others. It should be the purpose of every believer to point others to Jesus Christ, and you are accomplishing that purpose through the ongoing work of Abiding Above Ministries. I want to thank you once again for your prayer and financial support throughout this year. Without you we could not reach others. I truly believe far more can be done through our local churches if we can move from being self-centered to others-centered. This world we live in is looking for hope, and you and I should be living in such a way that people should be asking us why we are hopeful. It should be our purpose that the Gospel be proclaimed and that Christ be exalted. Do not get distracted, the center of power in your life is Jesus Christ and without Him we can do nothing. Be faithful in proclaiming all that He has done, and is doing in your life, and your life will be a beacon of hope that lights the way for those who are lost, and leads them to the arms of a loving Savior.

**1Peter 3:15** – *“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you,*



Yes, we know that Jesus is coming again and Christians are to be longing for His return. But, in our day when this subject is mentioned, insecure people try to explain it away.

*"... Knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."*

## **2 Peter 3:3-4**

It is so easy to see how Jesus is coming like a thief in the night, people are afraid to look at the signs and simply say, *"It must be near."*

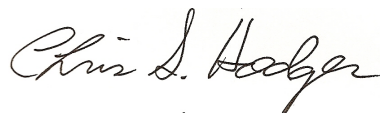
My friend let me encourage you in these troubled times. Nothing can change God's love for you and nothing can take Him by surprise. ***"You are in Christ and Christ is in you."*** You can look into the future and smile because you know the One who holds the future.

We need to practice seeing things from God's eternal perspective. This is the only answer. Don't look around to see what others are doing. Purpose in your heart, ***"It is no longer I but Christ!"***

Remember the words to this old Hymn and take comfort in these days in which we are living: ***"I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold; I'd rather be His than have riches untold; I'd rather have Jesus than houses or lands; I'd rather be led by His nail-pierced hand. Than to be the king of a vast domain, or be held in sin's dread sway. I'd rather have Jesus than anything, this world affords today. I'd rather have Jesus than men's applause; I'd rather be faithful to His dear cause; I'd rather have Jesus than worldwide fame; I'd rather be true to His holy name. Miller/Shea***

Dear friend and partner, as we approach the end of 2013, would you please consider us in your end of the year giving? And as always, we are praying for you each day and for God's protection and blessings to be upon you.

Abiding above,



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