

Dear Friend of Abiding Above,

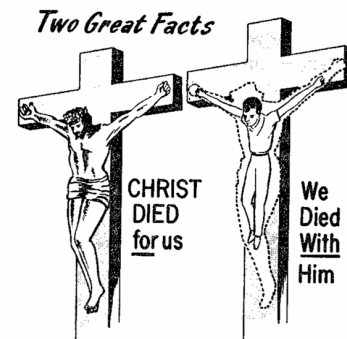
April 2006

Our message to believers is "You Died with Christ." More than likely if you are reading these words you are a believer or very close to making that eternal decision. What does it mean that you died with Christ? Paul said:

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God

This means, my friend, you shared in all that Christ did.

1) You Died with Christ. You have been immersed into Christ. When God sees you He sees you "in" Christ. I want to encourage you to stop trying to measure up to this unseen standard that you can never reach. Christ is the standard and "by Him" it has been reached. Please, my friend be encouraged. Stop right now, take a deep breath, and simply rest in His finished work.



2) You are Raised with Christ. The Holy Spirit raised Jesus from the dead, and that same Holy Spirit lives in you right now and forever. My friend, please do not concern yourself with imitating Jesus. Simply let Jesus, who is IN you, live THROUGH you. You might say, how? The same way you asked your children to give in to you, my friend, you must give control to Him.

Think about it. Can you stop yourself from dying? Then you are not in control, are you? Since you are not really in control, right now, give up trying. Let go and let God! Walk along everyday saying, "yes Lord, yes Lord, yes Lord." You will cease wondering if you are in His will, you will be living and walking around in it. Amen!! This is so much better! This is the secret. Trust me.

3) You are Hidden with Christ in God. Remember: you are "in Christ" because you died with Christ. Since you were placed into Christ and you were raised with Christ, where Christ is, you are. The Bible says that Jesus died, was buried, and on the third day was raised from the dead. The Bible also says that He ascended from the Mount of Olives back to heaven and sat down by the right hand of the God.

Where are you, now? With Christ, in God! My friend, your home is NOW in heaven, not *someday* in heaven. Where Christ is, there you are. Read these verses very carefully.

...when He raised Him (Christ) from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places... Ephesians 1:2Now, look closely.

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Ephesians 2:4-6

God has burned this message into my heart, my friend, to share with other believers who sense something is wrong with their walk with God, but do not understand what it is. You might say, "Chris, how do I live in this life?" Wherever you are, right now, simply:

- **Know** what you have just read is already true of you whether you believe it or not.
- **Consider** choose, right now, to believe it is true! Know it is true!
- **Yield** right now, wherever you may be, choose, to give control of your eyes, ears, speaking, hands, feet, plans, relationships, possessions, and say: "I am not my own, God allowed me to be born. God will allow me to die in His timing one day. I am His now and forever."

I have read about people many years ago who have done just what I have suggested to you in this newsletter. Read what happened to them. . .

"Abiding, not striving nor struggling. I feel as though the first dawning of a glorious day had risen upon me. As to work, mine was never so plentiful, so responsible, or so difficult; but the weight and strain are all gone." -- J. Hudson Taylor

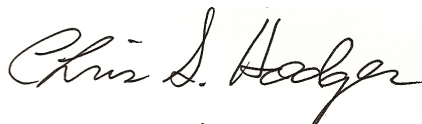
"I shall never forget my joy, mingled with awe and wonder, when this dawned upon my consciousness. While reading these words of Jesus to Martha: 'I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth on Me shall never die,' instantly my heart was melted like wax before fire; Jesus Christ was revealed to my spiritual consciousness, revealed in me, and my soul with unutterable love, I walked in a heaven of love." -- Samuel Logan Brengle

"Everything pointed to newness. The necessity of yielding my new self to God. A complete willingness to let Him be Himself in my life. I felt secure and simplified. My need is the most glorious possession I have outside of Christ Himself." -- Eugenia Price

"Jesus Christ does not want to be our helper; He wants to be our life. He does not want us to work for Him, He wants us to let Him work through us, using us as we use a pencil to write with- better still, using us as one of the fingers on His hand." -- Charles G. Trumbull

My prayer for you is what Paul wrote: ***I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints. Ephesians 1:18***

Seated with you in heavenly places,



Chris S. Hodges

President

Colossians 3:1-3