

Dear Friend of **Abiding Above**,

August 2009

**M**ark your calendars! I have been invited to preach both services at Germantown Baptist Church on Sunday, August 2, at 9:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. I would love to see you, so please make arrangements to join me there. It is always a joy for me to preach in the Memphis area when I am home from ministering abroad.

We are living in unusual times. Something seems to have gone wrong in our nation and with the local church as we have known it. Have you noticed the parallel? In our world we have an economic crisis, the spread of disease, natural disasters with casualties totaling in the hundreds of thousands. There are wars and rumors of wars.

**Matthew 24:6-7** - *And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled, for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.*

Today in our churches we are seeing a decline in salvations, baptisms, and attendance. In the past 10 years many churches have built larger facilities, and according to the news reports, these churches are now going bankrupt. There are many half-built church buildings in most of our larger cities. It seems man's personal dreams have come to a halt.

Nevertheless, The Great Commission that Jesus charged us with will never change or be altered. My friend, we must get back to what Jesus called us to.

**Matthew 28:18-20** - *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*

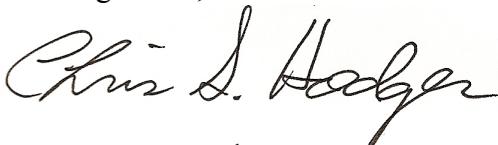
Think for just a moment. What would happen if each Christian would lead one person to the Lord, and then, personally disciple them? What would happen if the individual they disciplined was committed to leading someone else to the Lord and discipling them? If this were done with those who are presently Christians, soon, we would see the whole world won to Christ! My friend, Jesus was right, if we would simply go and make disciples and teach them how to do the same thing, we would fulfill the Great Commission. This would not cost near the money we presently spend to have a worship service. We have lost our way. The cry of the present hour must be to get back to what Jesus called us to... "go and make disciples."

I have just returned from visiting a church that I was very impressed with. From the moment you walk into the foyer of the church, you saw one thing only, go and make disciples locally and globally. That is their total focus. The pastor of this church has said, *"If anything comes to the planning table that does not enhance our discipleship program here and around the world, we will not do it no matter how enjoyable it might be."*

I want to encourage you my friend. Together, let's get back to the basics. May our motto be, "Each one, reach one."

If you would personally like to be disciplined in the privacy of your home, we can do this for you through the mail, and at no cost to you. Please write to us at the address on this letter, or sign up on our web site [www.abidingabove.org](http://www.abidingabove.org) Here at Abiding Above Ministries, we currently disciple hundreds of people all over the United States. I want to thank you for supporting us with your gifts. You are making it possible for us to continue keeping the main thing, the main thing.

Abiding above,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris S. Hodges". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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