

Dear Friend of [Abiding Above](#),

December 2010

“But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.” Galatians 4:4-5

Jesus came to pay a debt He did not owe, because all of us owed a debt we could not pay. Praise God for sending His Son Jesus! Praise Jesus for not shrinking back from the cross. He set His face like a flint towards Jerusalem and He did only what God the Father told Him to do. He became our substitute, as He died on the cross for your sins and mine.

Yes, my friend, we need to remember the true reason for the Christmas season. God sent forth His Son, to redeem us who were under the law. You and I have been adopted into the family of God. We have been taken out of Adam and Satan’s Kingdom and placed into Christ and God’s Kingdom. We are perfect in Christ Jesus forever.

As I conducted a funeral a few weeks ago, I was reminded once again of the brevity of life here on this earth. Vance Havner once said, *“Whatever the struggle, it shrinks up considerably when you stroll through a cemetery.”* This is so true. Let us take time this Christmas season to meditate on the goodness of God. Make yourself slow down and observe those around you who may be lonely, hurting, or depressed. There are many who will spend this time of year alone. They have no family and they may feel awkward in reaching out to others to form new relationships. Find someone who needs you, reach out to them, and include them in what you have planned this Christmas.

It is always a joy to preach in our local churches here in Memphis and at the Memphis Union Mission. I have seen people saved, and I have encouraged believers to yield their lives in full surrender to God’s control.

[Revival In Mississippi](#): God heard and answered your prayers during the revival I preached in Mississippi. It was a blessing to see so many of God’s children come to the altar to pray for full surrender to the control of the Holy Spirit. Revival happens as God’s people give up their right to themselves and let Him be all that He is “in them.” It is the cry of the heart that is willing to yield fully to the Holy Spirit and say, *“Not I, but Christ.”*

I was able to speak to the young children in a nearby school during the day. They were studying about kindness, so I shared with them about spiritual fruit. I used the pecan orchards as an illustration: *“Pecan trees produce pecans as they absorb the nutrients from the soil the same way apple trees will produce apples. Likewise, a Christian will bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit as they cease from striving and rest in Him Who is their very Life.”*

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” Galatians 5:22

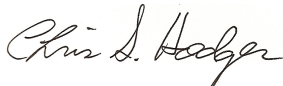
I spoke with them about my own struggles when I was their age. I shared with them about a time in my life when I made poor grades in school and how I failed the seventh grade. This helped them to see that God can take anyone and fulfill His purposes with them, even if they did mess up a lot in their early years. I was able to encourage them with this passage, *“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:19*

I have listened to the messages I preached during this revival and it encourages me to know God is using me. If you would like a copy please write to us at the address below, or send us an email calsip@abidingabove.org or call 901-590-9890.

We are nearing the end of the year. I try not to make mention of our financial needs, but we need your help. Please consider us as you plan your year-end giving.

God bless you and your family this Christmas, as you continue to walk along with Him Who is your Life.

Abiding above,



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