

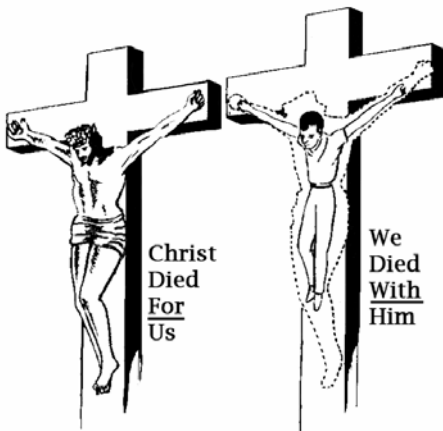
Dear Friend of *Abiding Above*,

May 2008

The Truth That Sets You Free: Many people have a yearning inside they do not understand. I think this yearning can be summed up in these words, ***“I must know something I don’t know.”*** Many Christians feel defeated and cannot verbalize why. Maybe you feel this way?

The mission of Abiding Above Ministries continues to be ***sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with every person, encouraging spiritual growth in every believer, by the power of the Holy Spirit and to the glory of God.***

The gospel message is simply ***Christ died for you.*** Encouraging spiritual growth in those who are saved involves the teaching of ***you died with Christ.*** I truly believe the answer of the aching heart of most believers, the answer to the plea, ***“I must know something I don’t know,”*** lies in the message of Paul’s writing in the New Testament.



Paul says, ***“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” Galatians 2:20.***

When a believer does not know the full meaning of the cross of Jesus Christ he will experience defeat in his daily Christian experience. Trust me, the cross means more than Christ’s atonement for our sins. Thank God for that, but you must know my friend that you died on the cross with Christ. Yes, by His stripes you were healed, but also you were declared perfect and righteous in the sight of God, and that for all eternity!

Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Romans 6:11.

What does this mean? When Jesus died you died. This means you were immersed into Jesus in His death. That means you were on the cross with Jesus when He died. God saw you there on that special day. That means you are now and forever, in Christ. The Lord Jesus died with your sin as your Representative. A representative is one who works on behalf of another. This you may not understand now, I beg you, believe it now and this truth will gradually dawn on you. It is the most wonderful and liberating truth ever! It is the truth that Satan works hard to keep you from knowing.



Having seen this, another fact is also revealed, that every believer has also been identified with Jesus in His resurrection and His ascension.

For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection....
Romans 6:5.

Every believer without exception, every member of the Body of Christ, every justified sinner is seen by God as one with Christ in His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension.

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ²Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. ³For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. Colossians 3:1-3.

You Must Surrender: My friend, concentrate, right now. To experience all that I have written, to finally have the answer to the desperate plea, “***I must know something I don’t know,***” you must be willing for the Holy Spirit to plant the cross upon your self life (that part of you that wants to have your way). Can you say yes to the nails of the Cross going through those ugly things that have hindered your personal testimony and kept you from living a victorious life, and giving you that satisfaction, and contentment that you cannot explain?

This is the secret, I am in Christ and Christ is in me. Choose every waking moment to live under the control of the Holy Spirit until you begin to live this way without choosing.

When this wonderful truth completes it’s gradual dawning on you please write to me and let me know. I love you and God bless you.

Please pray for us at Abiding Above Ministries. We are continuing to grow and this year is shaping up to be our best year yet. Many opportunities are at our door and we are walking through them in total surrender. Please support us. We truly need you!

Abiding above,

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