



Dear Friend of *Abiding Above*,

November 2021

God loves you and so do we! Thank you for praying and for sharing what God has given you.



Closing the message with a gospel plea and leading in the sinners prayer.

Each month when I'm in town I travel 2 to 3 times into the inner city to Memphis Union Mission, fulfilling the God-given opportunity to speak into the lives of homeless men. I absolutely love being a part of the solution to what troubles the fallen children of the first man Adam.

"Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—" **Romans 5:12**

The men agree; our problems are not what we are being told. Our problem is simply three letters that spell one word, **Sin**.

Having officiated several funerals just recently, I'm reminded of the brevity of life. My friend, if you've been thinking about doing something for Jesus, the time is now. Simply let Him have all there is of you, and He will certainly use you. Let's remember what the Bible says:

"There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven—" **Ecclesiastes 3:1**

"You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away..." **James 4:14b**



While performing a beautiful outdoor wedding, I was reminded again how God's order continues on.

"For this reason, a man shall leave his father and his mother; and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh." **Genesis 2:24**

Even in this world of sin, God's plan continues as people marry and are fruitful and multiply. Man simply cannot change God's original order; he can only die trying to do so. Let's fulfill the wonderful plan God has for each of us. You, my friend, are an original because God never makes duplicates.

We started our first annual men's retreat this year at Pickwick Lodge. It was a teaching, reflecting, and planning retreat. I shared a power point presentation in three sessions entitled **"The Pathway of a Christian."** It started with remembering we all came from

the first man, Adam, *and we are, therefore, born dead in our trespasses and sins.*

We moved from there to salvation and the common seasons a child of God walks in throughout his life. We finished with knowing that our true and eternal identity is in Christ and not in this world system. Commitments were made to walk in the fullness of the Holy Spirit by denying ourselves and living

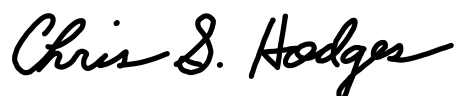


controlled by Him. We then took a beautiful cruise on a pontoon boat focusing on God's creation, taking pictures, and discussing our 3 spiritual sessions. We planned for 12 this year, and we also planned together to increase this to 24 next year. We are hopeful this will meet the needs of many and will continue to increase each year as the Lord leads.

I left the retreat charged and ready to go as I was scheduled to preach in the Mississippi Delta the next day. I preached morning and evening at Oakhurst Baptist Church. We also made evangelistic visits in a neighborhood near the church between worship services.

Please be sure to visit our website, AbidingAbove.org, to hear recent sermons. There you can look back at our sermon files by topic. Also, check us out on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn!

Abiding above,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris S. Hodges". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

President

Abiding Above Ministries

Colossians 3:1-3

AbidingAbove.org