



Dear Friend of *Abiding Above*,

February 2024

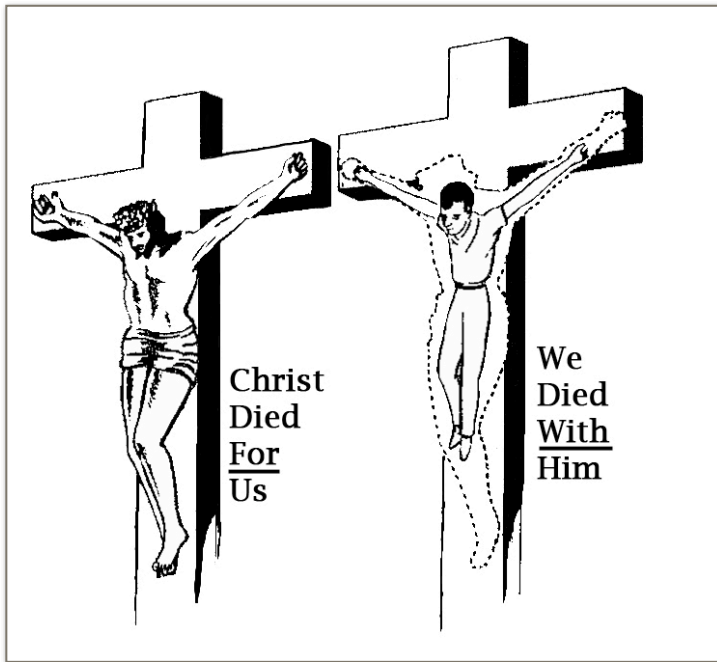
Recently, I stood at the graveside of a man who had a profound impact on my life. His name is George Eager and he is the man who founded the Mailbox Club. Due to a tragic accident on their farm in which he lost his little boy, they called Brucie, George found himself at a place of crying out to God for help in dealing with his grief and that of his family. He found Christ and began to share his testimony in local schools. The students began to write to him for help in finding Christ and for help in studying their Bibles. He wrote them back which led to him writing many Bible lessons that were simple to understand. These lessons are now in many languages all over the world.



Many years ago, I lived above the study of a British minister, Dr. Stephen Olford, in Memphis, Tennessee. The staff called his study the “Holy of Holies” and they called me “the man upstairs.” I helped him in his ministry by acting as host for the ministers who flew in from all over the world to listen to his lectures on preaching.

One day, I went to my mailbox and found a student discipleship lesson from the Mailbox Club. God put it on my heart to go through this course though I was a seminary student and was being trained on a higher level. God knew what I needed.

One day, as I was reading through one of the lessons, I turned the page and saw a picture of two crosses.



One cross had Jesus hanging on it and said, “**Christ died for you.**”

The other cross showed Jesus and the believer hanging on it and it read “**You died with Christ.**”

When I saw this picture, I knew I did not understand the meaning. I was saved at age six. I knew Jesus died for my sins but somehow, I had never learned that Christ died with Jesus on the cross. But it was true! It is written in the Bible!

The Apostle Paul said in **Galatians 2:20** – “*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.”

I realized I was about to learn something I did not know, that was going to be life-changing for me! So, I walked to the window in my bedroom, the window that faced towards the east. I took out my prayer blanket that I had at the time, an old patchwork quilt my grandmother, Barrentine, had made years ago.

I stretched out on that blanket and began to cry, thanking God for what He was about to show me. I went back to my desk and my eyes fell upon these words in the lesson,

“When God saved us He put us in Christ on the cross. What happened to Christ happened also to us because we were in Christ. When He was crucified, we were crucified with Him; when He died, we died with Him, and when He rose again, we rose again with Him. The Apostle Paul said, “I have been crucified with Christ.” What was true of the Apostle Paul is also true of us as Christians. Christ died for us, and we died with Him.”

When I began to see myself the way God sees me, perfect in Christ, my mind began to be renewed which affected my actions and, therefore, my feelings.

This caused my personality to change. Instead of looking to people for approval and my social status for significance, I found that I was approved and accepted by God and therein lies my significance. So, my life verses are from the Apostle Paul who said in:

Colossians 3:1-3 – “*Since 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 on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.*”

Because of these events in my life, my heart still burns to lead people to Christ and to encourage those who are saved in coming to the understanding that God sees them right here and right now eternally in Christ Jesus seated at His right hand!

Thank you so much for helping me spread this to the ends of the earth by your prayers and support! You are an “eternal” blessing, my friend!

Please pray for these upcoming evangelism trips. Teams of us will be in large cities handing out thousands of Gospel tracts!

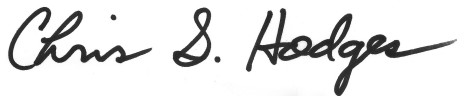
March 14-17 - Memphis & Chicago

April 30 - May 12 - Northern France

May 30 - June 9 - Central Massachusetts & Central Connecticut

September 20 - 29 - Central New York

Abiding above,



Chris S. Hodges

President

Abiding Above Ministries

Colossians 3:1-3

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