



Dear Friend of *Abiding Above*,

February 2019

Becoming a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ is to be a true disciple. This is done in agape love (**God's own love**) and grace and not with a mindset and emotional makeup of legalism. Legalism is the gravest danger in the individual life, family life, local churches, and world-wide ministry.

You see, God sees us eternally ***"In Christ"*** and eternally ***"Christ is in Us."***

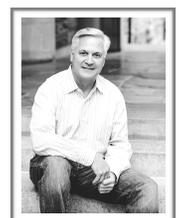
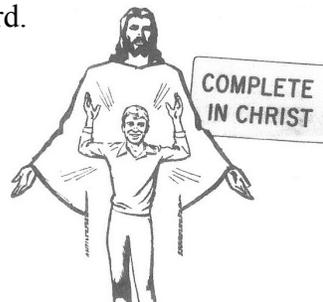
God sees us perfect ***"In Christ."*** Because of the death of Christ ***"for us"*** and ***"as us"*** God sees us right here and right now at His right hand because we are eternally ***"In Christ."*** Therefore, as Hudson Taylor, founder of the China Inland Mission, would say, *"There is no need for striving and writhing before the Lord for His acceptance and security, we are complete in Him. The death of Jesus for us puts us into a new position forever **"In Christ."**"*

John 15:4-5 - Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.

Colossians 3:1-3 - Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. 3 For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God.

More than 10 years ago we began a movement that continues on. This movement involves us to this very day in discipling people, both on a one to one basis and also through a systematic approach which uses Bible lessons. These lessons are written for the purpose of helping God's children see themselves Biblically, ***"Complete in Christ."*** Our goal is to lovingly and patiently take people from the milk of God's Word to the meat of God's Word.

Here is a picture of one of the many illustrations found throughout the Bible lessons:

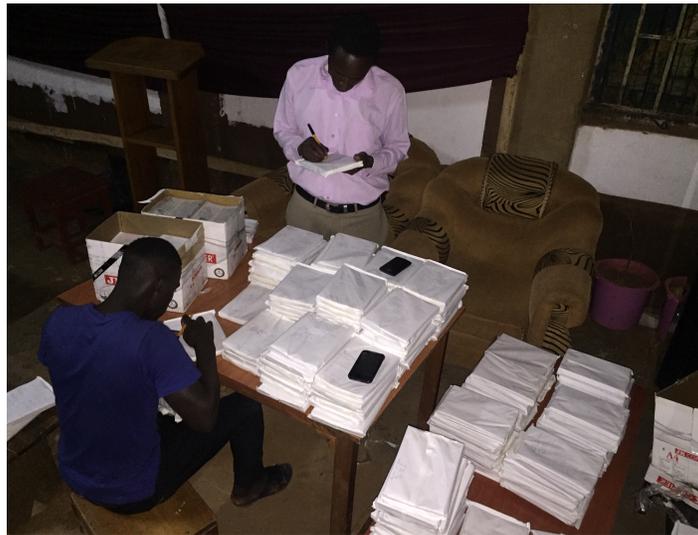


Chris Hodges
President & CEO

Because of your prayers and financial support, we have sent out thousands of lessons throughout these years. They are like paper missionaries. People are truly blessed by them. They are both profound in the teaching and simple in the approach and writing style. When you faithfully read them and answer the questions, you will find you enter into a gradual dawning of the riches that you presently and eternally have *“In Christ.”*

We not only purchase, distribute, grade, and administrate these lessons here in America, but also in the Swahili language of Kenya, Africa.

Here is a picture of a pastor and his people setting up a discipleship system in his church and to use in a prison in their region.



We continue to give God the glory for the great things He continues to do!

Jesus said in Matthew 28:18–20 - *“I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

Let’s plan to hear these words together, *“Well done good and faithful servant.”*

We love you here at Abiding Above.

Abiding above,

Handwritten signature of Chris S. Hodges

President
Abiding Above Ministries
Colossians 3:1-3

PS - Enclosed is a page of testimonies we thought you would enjoy!

Here is a written testimony from Larry, who we supply Bible lessons to. For several years now, Larry has used these lessons within the Mississippi prison system.

“When I was first given the opportunity many years ago to use these Bible lessons, it produced HOPE to a group of guys in prison. It opened doors to a jail ministry that had never been available to me or to them before. It provided something BRAND NEW to their hearts and mine. Many of these men had lost their vision of life. Each week as I distributed these Bible lessons to them they were able to learn about the AWESOME LOVE that Jesus Christ offers to us as seen in I Corinthians 13. We are given the power of the Holy Spirit to give this love to others.

This also produced the desire for a NEW LIFESTYLE, which many had never had before.

Week by week these men continue to learn as I teach them the many new things which they have never known before from God’s word. They are learning to have a new vision for a new life that now allows their light to shine brighter each day.

These Bible lessons have answered many of their unanswered question to life’s problems and thus fills them with the TRUTH. The TRUTH that Jesus is the ONLY WAY!”

Here is a written testimony from Julie Thal from New Jersey.

“I wanted to share with you how the tracts you sent me are being used. I was in a Wawa, a Jersey gas station, and I struck up a conversation with a young lady in her twenty's. She shared with me how she is suffering with heart issues and lost a child. That was after I asked if she had any children. I don't remember the sequence of events, but I gave her a tract, leaving her in the store and then running back in. Somewhere in there I gave her my phone number and name and the name of the church I attend. After praying with her, I saw her reading the tract in her car. I also gave her a CD of Christian music.

Ten days later, we met again at the Wawa and we sat in my car for an hour. She accepted the Lord after reading the tract. Then I gave her a Bible I bought the day we met ten days prior. She wanted to know how to know what kind of Bible to get. I said, if you meet me I will help you with that. She loved it and is reading it and praying daily. Then I was able to talk with a nurse in a doctors office about God and she mentioned that her nephew was asking his mother a LOT of questions about God. So, I gave her a tract. She said she would read it and I invited her to the church I am becoming a member at. And again at physical therapy I just gave one to a man and he took it. God is doing amazing things with these beautifully written tracts. Thank you so much for blessing me and many by your generosity in giving them to me at no charge. God has given me another opportunity to give one out, to a family member of a woman I help take care of. I went to a discount store and there was a study Bible for less than half price. God has put in on my heart to give study Bibles to people. At the time I told God I didn't know who it was for, but I knew He did. So I wrote out my testimony and I wrote out the salvation message, not something I usually do with family members but it was warranted. I gave him the Bible, my own explanation of salvation and the tract. I believe God told me salvation would start with him first and then to the rest of the family. I am excited as I wait to see what God is going to do. I may not work with the lady anymore, but I will always be her friend. I don't always talk about my psychiatric history with those I work with but it was needed for my lady to know how much I understood what she was going through and for her brother as well. So I trusted God for His timing. When I went to work a few weeks ago he told me he couldn't leave his sister. I stayed for twenty minutes and told him I wanted to give him something. I told him I was unsure how he would respond but I thought it would bring comfort. He was very appreciative of the letter and the Bible. So I am so excited. The tracts are making my "job" easier.

Thank you so very much.

Have a wonderful day and God bless your work.”

Julie