



Dear Friend of *Abiding Above*,

January 2014

I know you had a wonderful Christ-filled Christmas and New Year! Yes, our society is becoming increasingly secular, but that does not affect our power of choice to keep Christ in Christmas and make Him first in all that we do throughout each year. Let's influence our society for Jesus Christ in 2014!

One way this can be done is to purpose in your heart to **say a word for Jesus** wherever you go. This does not have to be done in an abrupt and obtrusive way. When He is your Life, it is the most natural thing to speak of Him. The Bible tells us to, *"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."* **1 Peter 3:15**

Let's encourage one another to abide above the darkness in 2014, so that we may not lose our light and witness. Jesus said, *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."* **Matthew 5:16**

My friend, I want you to know, that as a minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and as President of Abiding Above Ministries, I have no inclination to compromise what is clear to me; God's will for His children, and His desire for the local church. I have not, and will not, subscribe to the latest fads and trends displayed in what has become known as the emergent church. Fads and trends are like the fashion of clothes; they change every year. Together, let's pray for our country.

We all know that something is happening in our nation and our local churches. It is true; we have lost our first love. I want you to be encouraged because I believe if it were not for the days in which we presently live, we would not be turning our hearts back to God. The church is the body of Christ. This means that we Christians are *"in Christ"* and if He never changes, all that we are and all that we have in Him never changes.

God's Holy Word says in **Hebrews 13:8** – *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."*

Paul said in **Romans 12:2** – *"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind..."*



I know that we would all agree that the need for making the most of our time and resources is crucial. Jesus spoke of the many signs that will be upon us when He is at the door. He wants us to know, not the moment of His return, *but to easily see His shadow just before you see Him.* I believe we are seeing His shadow!

Jesus said, *“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”* **John 14:1-3**

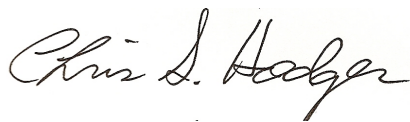
Jesus is coming soon! Think for a moment, what is the wisest thing to be doing in these last days? We need to channel all that we are, and all that we have, to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ, as far, and as quickly, as possible. Help me do this! This is what we are doing together and will continue to do. This is more important than compounded interest in an uncertain world. The Apostle Paul said, *“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.”* **2 Corinthians 8:9**

Yes, God is in absolute control, so let’s concentrate on the main thing, winning souls to Jesus Christ, and making sure by discipleship that every individual knows who they are in Christ.

It is my prayer that God will bless you this year in every way. My friend, whatever God has been leading you to do for many years now, don't hesitate, simply do it. It could be any number of things. If it comes to your mind often, it must be of the Lord. It might be to simply read your Bible, start having your quiet time again or learn how to share your faith. It can be so many things, just do it and you will be so blessed! Step out of your comfort zone in 2014 and see what God will do!

I love you and daily thank God for you. Be wise, in these last days. What are you doing with all that you have? Soon, and very soon, we are going to see Jesus! Will He find us faithful? Like young Samuel, say, *“Yes Lord, to the still small voice.”*

Abiding above,



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