

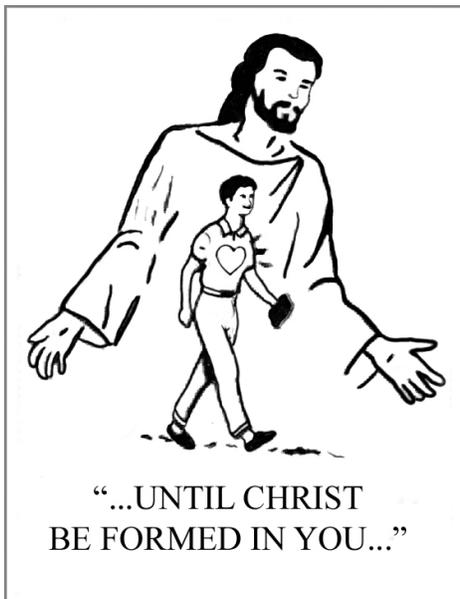


Dear Friend of *Abiding Above*,

September 2023

It has always been an inspiration and blessing to know I'm being prayed for and supported by my eternal brothers and sisters *"in Christ."*

I love these verses by the Apostle Paul. They reveal his heart as that of a parent longing and encouraging God's children to be conformed to the image of Christ.



Galatians 4:19 - *“My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you.”*

1 Thessalonians 2:7-9 *“But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children. Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us. For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, how working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.”*

1 Thessalonians 2:11 - *“... just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children”*

My friend, the heartbeat of Abiding Above Ministries continues to be these things the Apostle Paul felt and displayed as he did his part in fulfilling the **Great Commission** in making multiplying disciple-makers.

Abiding Above Ministries seeks to glorify God by encouraging all people into a relationship with Jesus Christ, discipling them in spiritual growth, and equipping them to make disciples of the nations by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The greatest thing we can do as fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ is to become more like Christ moment by moment as we yield to the indwelling Holy Spirit.

We should share the simple gospel with a lost and dying world, and always be discipling someone each week who will also go on to be a multiplying disciple-maker of others.

“Disillusioned by all our other efforts, we now see that the only hope left for the human race is to become like Christ.” ~ Frank Laubach

It was a joy to preach at a men’s gathering at Christ Church in Memphis, TN. The message I brought was **“A Man and His Friends.”** A man’s friends can sharpen him or dull him. We must be careful and seek godly friendships.

God continues to bless as I preach at Memphis Union Mission! We’ve heard many pray to receive Christ each month! Something unusual happened this past Tuesday. A homeless man who was in the program at the mission passed away just a few hours before I preached. I could tell there was a seriousness among the homeless during my sermon entitled, **“Free To Be Mastered.”**

The message was from Exodus 21, where the slave was being freed after completing his 6 years. Instead of leaving his master he said, *“I love my master, I will not go out to be free.”* My friend, this is a picture from the Old Testament of something about me and you in the New Testament and the present Church Age, the Age of Grace. We love God and choose to surrender to Him because He is our loving Heavenly Father Who loved us so much that He gave his Son, Jesus Christ, to die for us and as us. To God be the glory great things He has done in agape love.

Please be praying for our present mission trip to Kenya. I will be speaking to hundreds of students from village to village. I will be sharing the gospel message of the cross of Jesus Christ and helping them see from God’s Word His wonderful plan for the rest of their lives and how to begin living their life as a Christian.

Abiding above,



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

P.S. - Check us out on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter. Don’t forget our new Abiding Above App is downloadable for free at the Apple Store!