



More than that, they would find it necessary to watch carefully as they traveled due to the marauders and thieves that camped in strategic locations along major roads, often hiding in the caves within the mountainous countryside. Thus, the concern expressed in the opening of Psalm 121 came from a very real place: “I will lift up my eyes to the hills— From whence comes my help?” (Psa. 121:1). Faith initiated the journey, as Psalm 120 implies. However, the people would also need great faith to sustain their travels and ensure that they arrived in Jerusalem as planned, and the remainder of the psalm captures this faith in God’s providential role in their safety perfectly.

The psalmist makes an unequivocal statement of faith: “My help comes from the LORD Who made heaven and earth” (Psa. 121:2). Yahweh, as implied by His name, will be there, and He will help. Moreover, the help He can offer comes with the power of creation behind it. Such a declaration moves far beyond fear and passes timidity to embrace confidence and security. At this point in the psalm, the wording takes an interesting turn. Abandoning the first person declaration of faith, the psalm now moves to third person. While some consider this someone else’s response to the original question, I believe it better represents the psalmist’s faith that the same confidence He has in God should characterize others when they remember His character. The LORD provides the steadiness to secure a defense against any foe’s attack (Psa. 121:3). He remains ever alert and cognizant of His covenant with Israel and all its attendant promises (Psa. 121:4). “The Lord is your keeper” (Psa. 121:5a). He is more than able to care for you, protect you, and guide you, offering constant protection whether from the heat of the sun or the perils that strike at night (Psa. 121:5b-6). He always acts with our best interest at heart. Thus, if there are any doubts remaining, the final two verses surely dispel them. “The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul. The Lord shall preserve your going out and your coming in From this time forth, and even forevermore” (Psa. 121:7-8). God extends His protection to cover “all evil.” No evil exists that He cannot counter. His protection addresses your very “soul.” This likely refers to His commitment to protect the whole of our being, but its spiritual implications remain and are indeed profound. Moreover, the protection provided suffers no lapses in time. Every moment you live, God is there for you.

Jews arriving safely in Jerusalem after a potentially treacherous journey surely had reason to give thanks to God—but really no more than what His people enjoy each and every day. When you place yourself in His hands, the LORD is your keeper. And while that surely offers peace in the midst of a chaotic and sometimes cruel world, it provides even more when considered in terms of “even forevermore.”

## Order of Service

Opening Remarks		Clay Bond
Song Leader		Tom Barr
Song #299	<i>I Stand Amazed</i>	
Song #388	<i>Let Every Heart Rejoice and Sing</i>	
Prayer		Chris Windham
Song #367	<i>Jesus Paid It All</i>	
Communion		Sam Phillips Ray Parks
Song #312	<i>I'll Be a Friend to Jesus</i>	
Song #465	<i>O for a Heart to Praise My God</i>	
Sermon		Clay Bond
Song #436	<i>Nearer, Still Nearer</i>	
Offering		
Closing Remarks		Clay Bond
Song #391	<i>Let Me Live Close to Thee</i>	
Dismissal Prayer		Don Petrosky, Sr.

### Upcoming Events:

- August 15<sup>th</sup> Summer Series: Cody Westbrook will speak to us about the Beauty of Fellowship

### Wednesday Devotional

July 4-Aug. 29 Summer Series

### ...Prayer List...

*Gay Kyle, Eugene & Barbara Haydon, Bud Bond, Don Walker, Gary Schneider, Kathy Ivanciw's mother Shirley, Butch Crownover, Chris' cousin Tyler has begun cancer treatments, Melvin Wright, Petrosky's grand daughter-in-law Christie severe eye problem*

Remember our college students who are away at school: Jarrett Haydon, Emily & Courtney Meredith, and Dylan & Steven Petrosky

Attendance: Sunday AM: 42 PM: 29 Wednesday: 30 Contribution: \$2929.80