

Indeed, to be God's people is to be a blessed people (Psalm 128), and the preservation of Israel through all their trials not only shows God's interest but implies a significant purpose (Psalm 129). That implied significance receives voice in the very next psalm as it reflects on the meaning and means of atonement (Psalm 130). Indeed, atonement provides the foundation for contentment while living in a world filled with moral challenges (Psalm 131), and that full atonement would ultimately come through David's Successor, promised by God and anointed by God (Psalm 132). This hope, this perspective, and this mindset brought Jews back from foreign lands to Jerusalem in the spirit of unity reflected in the growing chorus of voices singing as they arrived in their homeland's capital (Psalm 133).

Thus, Psalm 134 serves as the culmination of all their anticipation. Ascending the steps to the temple in the final stage of a passage begun far away, the people take in the scene as they join the ranks of those present to worship the LORD and enter the temple to see God's servants, the Levites, standing ready in the temple even at night (1 Chr. 9:33) to perform their duty on behalf of the people (Psalm 134:1; cf. 1 Chr. 23:25-30). As the people therefore approached the sanctuary of the temple bringing their own gifts and sacrifices, they could then enjoin the priests to worship with outstretched arms—not in the meaningless waving so commonly assumed by some today, but in the manner prescribed for the wave offering as they came before God on behalf of the pilgrims (Psalm 134:2). Then the psalm closes, with the rhetorical response of the priests pronouncing God's blessing on those who came to worship in accordance with His will (Psalm 134:3).

From the moment the preparation for the journey began, worshipping God remained the focus, and so should it be for us today. Worshipping God provides the motivation to go, for He deserves our full attention. Worshipping God offers sufficient reason to show determination and dedication. Worshipping God focuses on following God's will and therefore on offering what God promises to receive instead of entertaining ourselves and our worldly sensibilities. Worshipping God focuses on what God has done for us—not on what we have done for Him—because He has proven Himself worthy as our Creator and Benefactor. As Jesus would later explain to the woman of Samaria, true worship requires true worshippers (John 4:23-24). The Jews of old correctly journeyed to Jerusalem to worship at the temple and sang this song as the final part of their sojourn. As such, it points to a principle worthy of imitation. The highlight of the journey was bowing before God. It provided the motivation for beginning and the culmination at the end. This remains true today—not only in assembling to worship together as God's people on the first day of the week, but also in ultimately bowing together before God in heaven.

Order of Service

Opening Remarks		Chris Windham
Song Leader		Tom Barr
Song #419	<i>Lord We Come Before Thee Now</i>	
Song #571	<i>Seeking the Lost</i>	
Prayer		Sam Tarbet
Song #359	<i>Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross</i>	
Communion		Ray Parks Sam Phillips
Song #544	<i>Redeemed</i>	
Song #800	<i>Zion's Call</i>	
Sermon		Clay Bond
Song #337	<i>Is Thy Heart Right with God?</i>	
Offering		
Closing Remarks		Chris Windham
Song #438	<i>My Hope is Built on Nothing Less</i>	
Dismissal Prayer		Leonard Meredith

Upcoming Events:

- Nov. 4th Potluck Fellowship
- Nov. 11th – 14th Schertz Lectures

Wednesday Devotional

Oct. 31st Russell Haydon

...Prayer List...

Gay Kyle, Eugene & Barbara Haydon, Don Walker, Gary Schneider, Kathy Ivanciw's mother Shirley, Butch Crownover, Chris' cousin Tyler, Melvin Wright

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

Shut-Ins: Robbi George

Attendance: Sunday AM: 31 PM: 27 Wednesday: 17 Contribution: \$2755.03