



Thank you Pleasant Ridge for your support of your Catawba River Baptist Association. Your partnership is a great encouragement to your fellow churches of Burke County!

**Guest Speaker:** Dr. Michael R Hodge - New Associational Mission Strategist  
**Scripture Text:** Psalm 121 **Message Title:** The Uphill Journey

**"You are Invited"** - Those words are so encouraging when we *want* to attend an event or activity. We are grateful to be included in the event. In the message this evening, we receive the invitation to the mountain (in one of the psalms of ascent).

**Examples Across the Bible:** The imagery of mountains is prevalent across Scripture. Abraham. Moses. Elijah. Jesus. Over 500 times, mountains appear.

*Philippians 3:14, "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."*

*Psalm 24:3-4, "Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? 4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully."*

**If I am going to draw close and encounter the Lord, I must approach on His terms.**

**Psalm 121:1-8**

Hymn "Higher Ground," - - *"I'm pressing on the upward way, new heights I'm gaining every day; Still praying as I onward bound, Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."*

**I. The Uphill Journey:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Vs. 1, "I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?"*

Eugene Peterson:

*"A person has to be thoroughly disgusted with the way things are to find the motivation to set out on the Christian way. A person has to get fed up with the ways of the world before he, before she, acquires an appetite for the world of grace."*

**If we are to join the pilgrimage of following Jesus, it begins at the**  
 \_\_\_\_\_.

"Looking Up" by Sidewalk Prophets  
*There's a long list of roads to rock bottom. Just a handful of ways to climb out. I've been hit with some punches. Strong enough to make Superman's knees hit the ground. Some things will make you start praying - whether you believe in God or not If you get low enough - you'll start looking up.*



Thank you Pleasant Ridge for your support of your Catawba River Baptist Association. Your partnership is a great encouragement to your fellow churches of Burke County!

**Guest Speaker:** Dr. Michael R Hodge - New Associational Mission Strategist  
**Scripture Text:** Psalm 121 **Message Title:** The Uphill Journey

**"You are Invited"** - Those words are so encouraging when we *want* to attend an event or activity. We are grateful to be included in the event. In the message this evening, we receive the invitation to the mountain (in one of the psalms of ascent).

**Examples Across the Bible:** The imagery of mountains is prevalent across Scripture. Abraham. Moses. Elijah. Jesus. Over 500 times, mountains appear.

*Philippians 3:14, "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."*

*Psalm 24:3-4, "Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? 4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully."*

**If I am going to draw close and encounter the Lord, I must approach on His terms.**

**Psalm 121:1-8**

Hymn "Higher Ground," - - *"I'm pressing on the upward way, new heights I'm gaining every day; Still praying as I onward bound, Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."*

**I. The Uphill Journey:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Vs. 1, "I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?"*

Eugene Peterson:

*"A person has to be thoroughly disgusted with the way things are to find the motivation to set out on the Christian way. A person has to get fed up with the ways of the world before he, before she, acquires an appetite for the world of grace."*

**If we are to join the pilgrimage of following Jesus, it begins at the**  
 \_\_\_\_\_.

"Looking Up" by Sidewalk Prophets  
*There's a long list of roads to rock bottom. Just a handful of ways to climb out. I've been hit with some punches. Strong enough to make Superman's knees hit the ground. Some things will make you start praying - whether you believe in God or not If you get low enough - you'll start looking up.*

**We lift up our eyes to God and find in Him the \_\_\_\_\_ and daily help.**

**We look to the Lord because He alone is \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Vs. 2, "My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth."*

Charles Spurgeon: "Our hope is in Jehovah, for our help comes from him. Help is on the road, and will not fail to reach us in due time, for he who sends it to us was never known to be too late. Jehovah who created all things is equal to every emergency; heaven and earth are at the disposal of him who made them, therefore let us be very joyful in our infinite helper."

**II. The Uphill Journey: \_\_\_\_\_ Still Stand**  
Psalm 121:3-4

**God was faithful to His people because He is a \_\_\_\_\_ God.**

*"I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done." (Ps. 143:5)*

**We arrive knowing our brokenness and \_\_\_\_\_ of God daily.**

*Vs. 5, "The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand."*

**God is faithful in providing rest to those who will lift up their eyes to Him and Him alone.**  
Rom. 8:31-34

**III. The Uphill Journey: Through \_\_\_\_\_**  
Psalm 121:7-8

**My hope in this uphill journey is to \_\_\_\_\_ who will guard my steps.**

Eugene Peterson: "All the water in the oceans cannot sink a ship unless it gets inside. Nor can all the trouble in the world harm us unless it gets within us."

**My hope in this uphill journey \_\_\_\_\_ through Christ in me.**

**Closing Reference:** God on the Mountain – Jason Crabb – 2011.

**We lift up our eyes to God and find in Him the \_\_\_\_\_ and daily help.**

**We look to the Lord because He alone is \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Vs. 2, "My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth."*

Charles Spurgeon: "Our hope is in Jehovah, for our help comes from him. Help is on the road, and will not fail to reach us in due time, for he who sends it to us was never known to be too late. Jehovah who created all things is equal to every emergency; heaven and earth are at the disposal of him who made them, therefore let us be very joyful in our infinite helper."

**II. The Uphill Journey: \_\_\_\_\_ Still Stand**  
Psalm 121:3-4

**God was faithful to His people because He is a \_\_\_\_\_ God.**

*"I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done." (Ps. 143:5)*

**We arrive knowing our brokenness and \_\_\_\_\_ of God daily.**

*Vs. 5, "The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand."*

**God is faithful in providing rest to those who will lift up their eyes to Him and Him alone.**  
Rom. 8:31-34

**III. The Uphill Journey: Through \_\_\_\_\_**  
Psalm 121:7-8

**My hope in this uphill journey is to \_\_\_\_\_ who will guard my steps.**

Eugene Peterson: "All the water in the oceans cannot sink a ship unless it gets inside. Nor can all the trouble in the world harm us unless it gets within us."

**My hope in this uphill journey \_\_\_\_\_ through Christ in me.**

**Closing Reference:** God on the Mountain – Jason Crabb – 2011.