

Looking Up

By Christine Anderson

Psalm 121:1-2

I lift up my eyes to the hills – where does my help come from?

My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Psalms 120-134 are commonly referred to as the Songs of Ascent. Three times a year all able-bodied Jewish men were to make a trip to Jerusalem for the required feasts. Jerusalem is literally surrounded by mountains, so as the men made their trip they were, in fact, “going up” to Jerusalem. It is believed that these Psalms were sung as they made the ascent into the city.

During the time this psalm was written it would have been common practice to build shrines and altars to false gods on the high places, or hills. So it could be assumed that as these Jewish travelers lifted their eyes to the hills they would have seen shrines, altars, and buildings dedicated to these false gods. They may have even seen worshippers making sacrifices in the hopes that their gods, made from human hands, could actually help them.

We can kind of chuckle at the absurdity of worshipping false gods in the way they did during Biblical times. I mean, we would never worship false gods or make sacrifices to gods made from human hands. We would never sacrifice our children or our families on the altar to please a false god...right?

Wrong.

Honestly, it happens every single day. True – I don't know anyone (thankfully) who would kill their children in an effort to please a pretend god. However, are there other ways to sacrifice our children? Are there other forms of “worship?”

Perhaps it would help if I identified some of the false gods. How about the god of Money? Power? Popularity? Pleasure? Success? Perfection? Consumerism?

Are you getting the idea?

How many of us have sacrificed our kids' childhoods by putting them in every activity under the sun in the hopes that they will one day be a professional athlete or a movie star? Have we sacrificed our children's future as we teach them that the best way to live is to accumulate more and more stuff, even though it means we are living with a pile of debt we have little hope of repaying?

How many marriages have been sacrificed to the god of Pleasure? Adultery and pornography addictions are becoming all too common. How many families don't even see one or both parents as they bow down to the god of Success? How many beautiful homes now sit in foreclosure because people were too busy worshipping the god of Consumerism to save for their future?

This world has all kinds of answers, but they prove false time and time again. Yes, they may bring you some momentary happiness, but you know as well as I do that it doesn't last.

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There is only one God. He created the ground that you stand on. He put the stars in the sky. He measured the oceans in the palm of His hands. He is the only One who can answer the questions you have. He is the only One who can give you peace and joy that will last. He is the one true God, the Maker of heaven and earth.

When you lift your eyes up to the hills, what do you see? What do you put your trust in besides Jesus Christ? What have you sacrificed on the altar to a false god?

Jesus Christ died on the cross to pay the penalty for your sins. He offers you so much more than an eternity in heaven. He offers you peace, joy, love, healing, wisdom, etc. But you can't keep worshipping a false god and worship the real God. Go to Him and ask for forgiveness. Ask Him to show you what idols you have built and what you are trusting in besides Him. You don't need to be afraid to ask; God doesn't want to expose your sin so He can condemn you – He wants to expose your sin so He can help you.

I lift my eyes up to the hills – where does my help come from?

My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

God bless you, my Friend.

Christine