

## **Ps. 134 "All Servants of the Lord"**

**For the Children:** Have you ever been on a holiday to a place with tall, majestic mountains? Or to a place with beautiful, old buildings? Spectacular scenery can make a big impression on us. The Temple built on Mt. Zion was such a place. The Jews who made their way there for the great feasts were amazed by the sight as they drew near. But that Temple was only a picture of how God lives in the midst of His church. It was a picture of how He draws us close to Him through the Lord Jesus, In that Temple, priests served God by day and night. What a privilege to serve in such a place! That was a picture of the great privilege we have to serve God through the Lord Jesus – whether we serve as office-bearers, or as “ordinary” believers. **Questions:** How do we serve God as His people? How do deacons serve God? How can this Psalm encourage us when we find it difficult to enjoy serving the Lord?

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### **Introduction:**

#### **First Point: The Call to Servants to Bless the Lord**

- 1) The Servants: The “servants” here could be priests and Levites, or the pilgrims who come to worship in the Temple. Either way, we have plenty of reason to “bless” God – to worship Him – since we have come to a heavenly Zion through Christ. See 1 Pet. 2:9 and Heb. 13:15.
- 2) Nightly Service: The Temple was open day and night for priests and Levites to serve and for worshippers to worship. See Ex. 27:2, Lk. 2:37. Nightly worship indicates the zeal of the worshipper.
- 3) Upraised Hands: Lifting up hands to God was one posture of prayer (Ps. 28:2; 141:2; 1 Tim. 2:8), but not the only one. It symbolized hearts and minds lifted up in faith to the God who is infinitely far above us. The ascent to Mt. Zion was also designed to remind God’s people to hold God in awe.
- 4) The Nature of Service: Serving God means worshipping Him, as we have seen. It also means waiting upon Him to do His bidding. This service is only possible in Christ. He Himself is the Great High Priest and Suffering Servant, who waited upon His Father’s will. In addition to the service the believer offers God, deacons are called to particular areas of service in helping the needy, comforting them with the Word and collecting and distributing the offerings.

#### **Second Point: Calling on the Lord to Bless His Servants**

- 1) Blessed by the Creator and Lord: God is Creator and Ruler of the world. He is unchanging and always faithful to His Word. He is willing and able to keep all of His promises – including the promise to bless us. He has demonstrated this most clearly in sending His Son.
- 2) Blessed from Zion: God uses means to bless us. One of those means is the church, “Zion.” Zion is the focus of the “Songs of Ascent.” See Pss. 128:5; 121:1; 122:6-7. We are blessed by the church’s ministry of the Word, intercession, fellowship, discipline, mission-work and diaconal ministry. We should therefore strive to be as involved in the church as possible.
- 3) Blessed from the Heavenly Zion: However, the Psalm points us even higher to the place from which all blessings flow – the heavenly Zion where Christ is. See Heb. 12:22-24. We must look to Him above all.
- 4) A Great Encouragement: This is a great encouragement to all God’s servants - that He blesses us through Christ. His blessings are far greater than the sacrifices we make in our service. Remembering this can help us through the times when service seems difficult and joyless.

### **Conclusion:**

