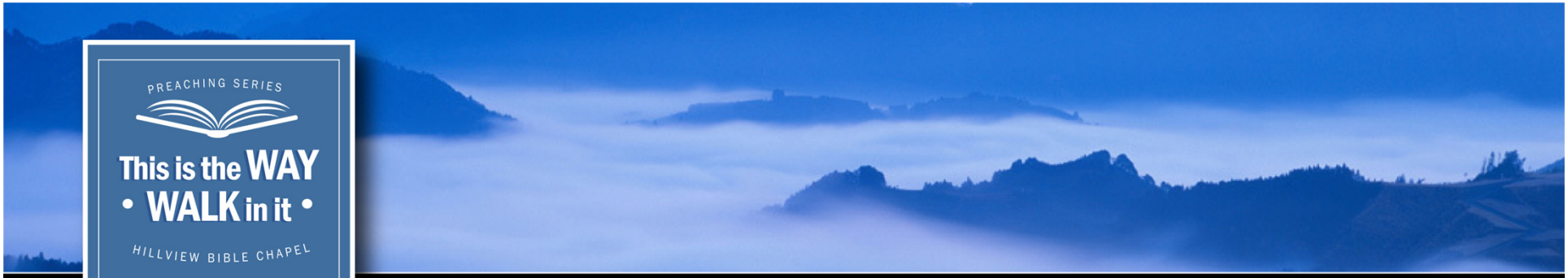
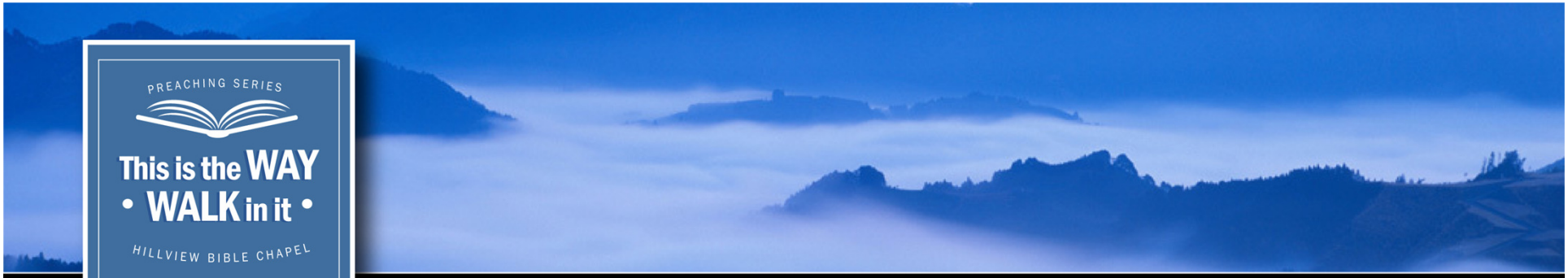


God cares for THIS….the CHURCH

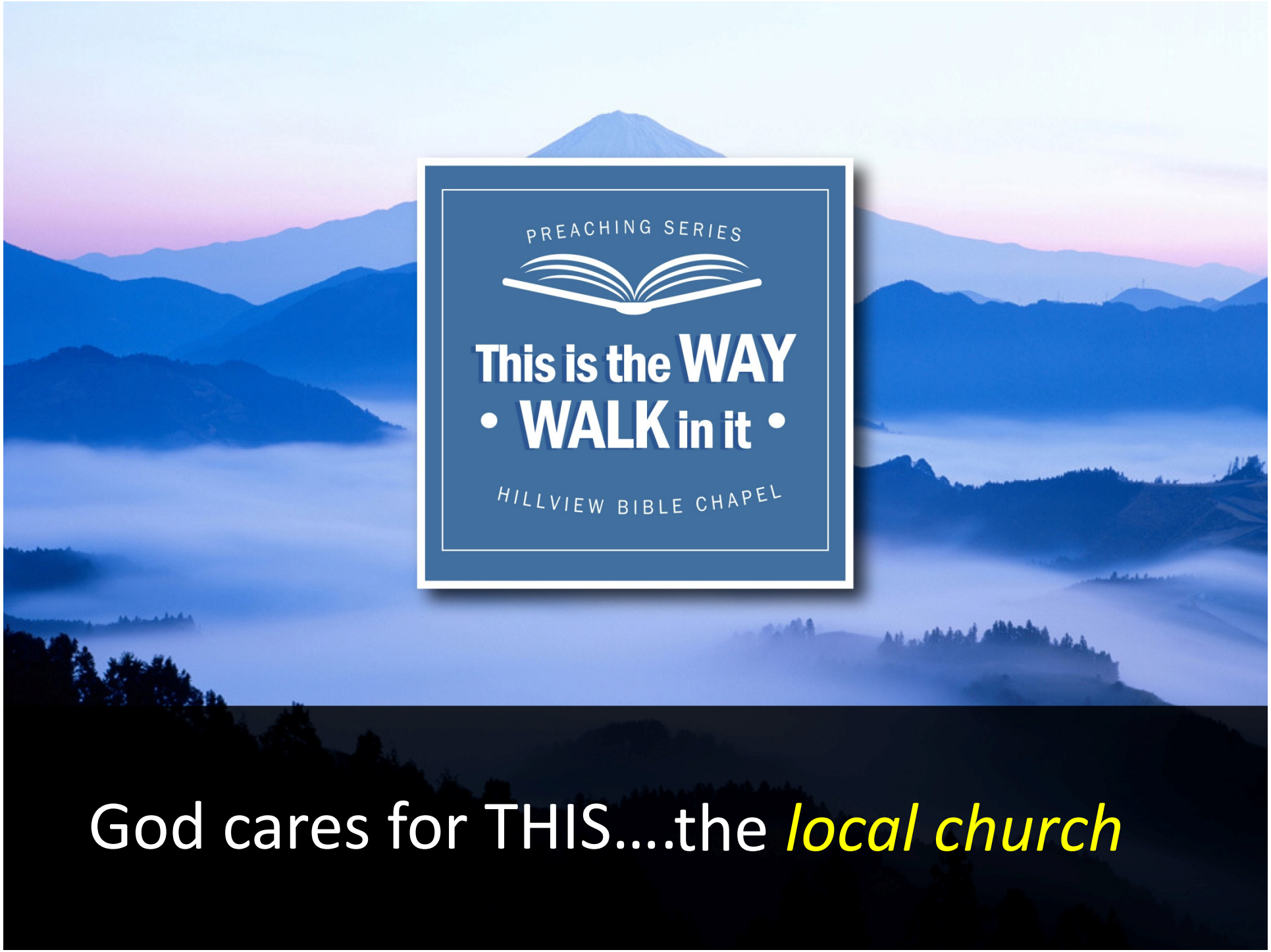


Matthew 16:18 "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it."

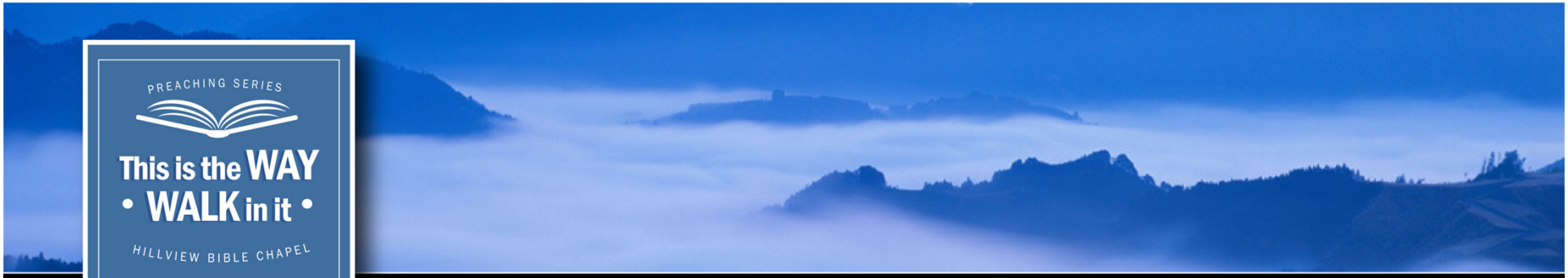


Eph 3:8-11

8 To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, 9 and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things; 10 so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places. 11 This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,

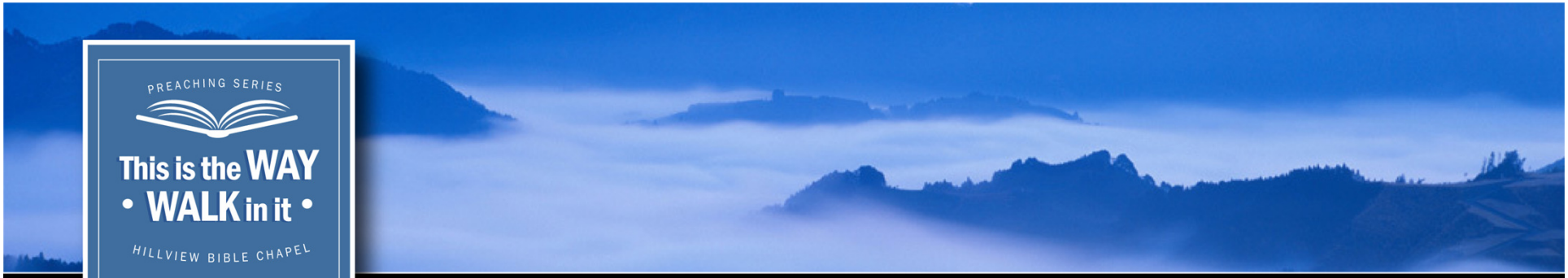


God cares for THIS….the *local church*



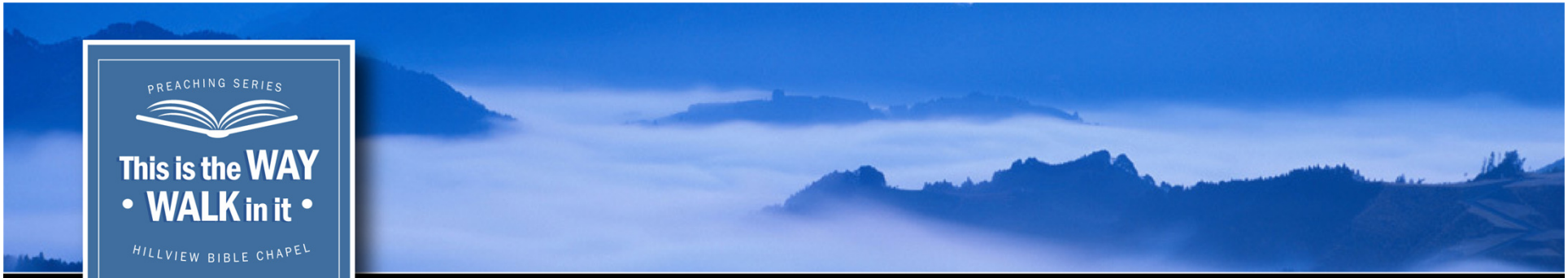
Embrace the pattern of the NT church

1. Apostles teaching
2. Fellowship
3. Breaking of Bread
4. Prayer



Understand the expectations of God concerning the local church

1. **Ephesus**: an unfeigned love for Jesus
2. **Smyrna**: Faithfulness to the end
3. **Pergamum**: Truthfulness to God's word
4. **Thyatira**: Sensitivity to sin and holiness



Understand the expectations of God concerning the local church

5. **Sardis**: Wake up
6. **Philadelphia**: Hold fast to what you have
7. **Laodecia**: Don’t be lukewarm