

Matthew 13: ¹⁰ And the disciples came and said to Him, “Why do You speak to them in parables?” ¹¹ He answered and said to them, “Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. ¹² For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. ¹³ Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. ¹⁴ And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: ‘Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive; ¹⁵ For the hearts of this people have grown dull. *Their* ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with *their* eyes and hear with *their* ears, Lest they should understand with *their* hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.’ ¹⁶ But blessed *are* your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; ¹⁷ for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous *men* desired to see what you see, and did not see *it*, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear *it*.

Sunday: What is meant by the “mysteries of the kingdom”? **Pray** for the number of open positions on both the faculty and staff at Geneva College, that the Lord would fill them with individuals who align with the mission of the college and desire to serve students in the ministry of education. **Pray** for Gainesville, Fla., RP Fellowship.

Monday: According to v. 11, why do some people have faith? Why do some not have faith? **Pray** for Terre Haute, Ind., RPC to grow in number, as the congregation seeks the salvation of sinners from the community. **Give thanks** for the 50 people who attended the first worship service at Wishaw (Scotland) RPC.

Tuesday: To what doctrine is Jesus referring? **Please pray** for Central Asia as the team starts to grow. **Pray** for the Aweil Community Church in South Sudan.

Wednesday: According to Jesus, does God foreordain (predestinate) people to salvation and to condemnation? **Pray** that the Lord would be pleased to use Hope Community (Beaver Falls, Pa.) RPC as a beacon of hope for the hopeless in their community. **Pray** that the Atlanta RPC building renovations will soon be complete.

Thursday: How does II Corinthians 2:14-16 relate to the present passage? **Give thanks** with Topeka Kan., RPC for the faithful ministry of Pastor Brad Johnston as he is preaching through the book of John and the blessing his messages are to the congregation. **Pray** for the RPC of Scotland, as it needs folks to move and become part of that branch of the church, and as it also needs financial support.

Friday: Reflect on II Thessalonians 2:10-14; how does that passage relate to Jesus’ words here? **Please pray** for Sharon (Morning Sun, Iowa) RPC’s church leaders: their teaching elder, Bryan Schneider; their ruling elders, John Smith, Jim Pilling, and Ben Turner; their deacon board members, Bill Baird, Joe Baird, Barry Heilman, and Kim Robb; and their faithful team of Sunday school teachers, small group leaders, and others who step up to help in any way they can. **Pray** that the word of God would increase in Atlanta and throughout our nation.

Saturday: What do we see that the prophets of old did not? **Please pray** for medical concerns of older saints at Elkins Park, Pa., RPC. **Pray** for Atlanta RPC, for its growth and encouragement.

Atlanta Reformed Presbyterian Church

The Lord’s Day
July 21, 2024

Meeting every week at
574 Western Avenue
(corner of Western and Walnut Street)
Atlanta, Georgia
Worship at 3:30 PM

Pastor Frank J. Smith, Ph.D., D.D.

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Proclaiming the Kingship of Jesus Christ

Welcome and Announcements

Scripture Memory and Catechism Questions

The Call to Worship

Isaiah 9:6-7

*The Invocation

*Psalm 2

“Why Do Heathen Nations Rage?”

Scripture Reading

Proverbs 16:10-20

*Psalm 36A

“Transgression to the Wicked Speaks”

Pastoral Prayer

*Psalm 37F

“I Saw the Wicked, Ruthless Man”

Scripture Text

Deuteronomy 17:14-20

The Sermon

“Governmental Do’s and Don’ts”

*Prayer

*Psalm 20B

“The Lord in Your Distress Attend”

*Benediction

*Psalm 134A

“Lo, With Praises to Jehovah”

** Congregation will please stand.*

We are so glad that you could join us today! Please be sure to return next week and bring a friend.

Scripture Memory and Catechism Questions & Answers

Deuteronomy 12:32: “What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.” Psalm 47:6: “Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!” “And one cried unto another and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.”—Isaiah 6:3.

Q. 23. What offices doth Christ execute as our redeemer? A. Christ, as our redeemer, executeth the offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king, both in his estate of humiliation and exaltation.

Q. 24. How doth Christ execute the office of a prophet? A. Christ executeth the office of a prophet, in revealing to us, by his word and Spirit, the will of God for our salvation.

Q. 65. What is forbidden in the fifth commandment? A. The fifth commandment forbiddeth the neglecting of, or doing anything against, the honor and duty which belongeth to every one in their several places and relations.

For your convenience, a tithe box is located at the back.

God instructs us as to what a ruler should and should not do.

I. The Do’s

A. Not a foreigner

1. In this instance, it would have to be a Jew/an Israeli
2. Today, perhaps someone who is native born
3. Why is this principle important?

B. Submissive to the law of God

1. The king must own it for himself
2. He must read and consult and meditate upon God’s law
3. What does it mean for the king to submit to God’s law?
 - a. He must acknowledge and honor and glorify God
 - b. He must apply the law to society
 - c. Specifically, he is to maintain order and justice
 - d. And he is to protect against enemies

II. The Don’ts

A. Not idolatrous

1. Not turning back to the ways of Egypt
2. Doing so was always a temptation (Ex. 17:1-7; Lev. 18:1-5)

B. Not proud and pompous (cf. vv. 15 and 20)

1. Horses were also a symbol of pride
2. Jehovah’s judges rode on asses (Judges 5:10; 12:14)

C. Not power-hungry—horses used for war (Ps. 20:7; 33:10-17)

D. Not given over to pleasure

E. Not greedy

Application

A. Notice how these various sins feed into one another

B. These principles apply to all civil governments

1. The law of God is universal and applies to every circumstance
2. There is no neutrality in God’s world
3. That which is “good” (Rom. 13) is defined by God
4. God mocked and destroyed wicked nations
5. Prophecy of the nations covenanting with the Lord
6. Jesus’ mediatorial kingship is implied

C. Pray for our government and its leaders