

Matthew 13: ¹⁸“Therefore hear the parable of the sower: ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand *it*, then the wicked *one* comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. ²⁰But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. ²²Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. ²³But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands *it*, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

Sunday: What is “the word of the kingdom”? **Pray** for perseverance and steadfast hope for all those in Fresno, Calif., RPC as they face varieties of challenges; **pray** for their elders and deacons, tasked with servant-leader roles, and for each of their congregants, that they would with a growing love encourage one another and build each other up. **Pray** with Geelong (Australia) RPC for revival in their area.

Monday: Who is “the wicked one”? **Please pray** for South Asia, as many believers travel back and forth. **Pray** that the ongoing building renovations at Atlanta RPC will soon be successfully completed. **Pray** for the RP ministry in Nantes, France.

Tuesday: By what means does the wicked one snatch away the seed? **Pray** for Terre Haute, Ind., RPC, that they would have strength to persevere in the ministry they share. **Give thanks** for the visitors at Frankston (Australia) RPC and **pray** that they would soon commit themselves to Christ and join the congregation. **Pray** for Knockbracken (Northern Ireland) RPC’s outreach efforts to walkers and others.

Wednesday: What do vv. 20-21 tell us about someone who is not truly converted? **Pray** that God will protect RPGM short-term trips from the evil one. **Give thanks** for the many people who have joined Stranorlar (Northern Ireland) RPC the past two years; **pray** for them and their families. **Pray** for the Reformed believers in Spain, that they would be encouraged and united.

Thursday: What are the cares of this world? **Give thanks** for the Lord graciously protecting the health of a loved one of Birmingham (Hoover, Ala.) RPC, and **pray** that He would be pleased to make her whole again. **Give thanks** for the new members and baptisms at Letterkenney (Northern Ireland) RPC; **pray** for a church building.

Friday: What does it mean to bring forth fruit, a hundredfold, or sixty, or thirty? **Pray** that Lafayette, Ind., RPC would grow in holiness—that the goal of their lives would be to glorify God in the midst of all kinds of adverse circumstances. **Pray** for the two theological students from Okamoto Keiyaku (Kobe, Japan) RPC, Mr. Doyle and Mr. Inoue, and for God’s guidance in their journey towards ministering His Word.

Saturday: If a professed believer is not fruitful, is he really saved? **Please pray** that the Lord would be praised for the ordination and installation of two new deacons at Southfield, Mich., RPC in April, thus forming their first deacon board in over a decade. **Pray** for Reformed Theological College in Northern Ireland and the raising up of men to be ministers of the gospel. **Pray** for the service at Atlanta RPC tomorrow, that many would attend.

Atlanta Reformed Presbyterian Church

The Lord’s Day
July 28, 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.

franksmith76@gmail.com
https://atlanta-rpc.org
(770)241-3946

Proclaiming the Kingship of Jesus Christ

Welcome and Announcements

Scripture Memory and Catechism Questions

The Call to Worship

Psalm 122:1

*The Invocation

*Psalm 96A

“O Sing a New Song to the Lord”

Scripture Reading

Revelation 13

*Psalm 38D

“Lord My God, In Thee I’m Trusting”

Pastoral Prayer

*Psalm 37F

“I Saw the Wicked, Ruthless Man”

Scripture Text

Daniel 3

The Sermon

“Governmental Idolatry”

*Prayer

*Psalm 58A

“You May Be Gods”

*Benediction

*Psalm 68E

“O All Ye Kingdoms of the Earth”

** 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

Matthew 28:18: “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.” **Ephesians 1:4-5: “Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will.”**

Q. 25. How doth Christ execute the office of a priest? A. Christ executeth the office of a priest, in his once offering up of himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice, and reconcile us to God; and in making continual intercession for us.

Q. 26. How doth Christ execute the office of a king? A. Christ executeth the office of a king, in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.

Q. 27. Wherein did Christ’s humiliation consist? A. Christ’s humiliation consisted in his being born, and that in a low condition, made under the law, undergoing the miseries of this life, the wrath of God, and the cursed death of the cross; in being buried, and continuing under the power of death for a time.

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

Daniel 3 “Governmental Idolatry”

Theme: The Lord condemns the idolatry of the civil government.

I. A Giant of an Idol

A. The idol

B. The idolatry

1. Designed to be universal in scope
2. Entailed actual worship

II. Governmental Idolatry

A. Examples throughout Scripture

1. Genesis 11—pride; affront to God (up to heaven)
2. Exodus—making fun of the gods of Egypt
3. The Philistines worshipping Dagon (I Sam. 5)
4. The Canaanites worshipping Baal
5. The Romans worshipping Caesar

B. The nature of gov’t idolatry is trying to replace God

1. To be worshipped by all
2. The knower of all—becoming omniscient and omnipresent
3. The supplier of all
4. The ruler of all—no activity outside its control (statism)
5. The possessor of all—so that everything belongs to it
6. The definer of all—so that it can defy the reality of creation

C. Examples

1. Deifying rulers (messianic figures)
2. Collecting all kinds of private information
3. Providing welfare payments
4. Everything under its authority—totalitarianism
5. Asserting ownership over everything
6. Creating a new society and a new man

Observations

- A. There’s nothing wrong with patriotism per se
- B. The Bible warns that governments can become demonic
- C. The Bible warns idolatrous nations that they’ll be destroyed

Application—trust in King Jesus, who is our only hope