

Matthew 13: ³⁴ All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a parable He did not speak to them, ³⁵ that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: "I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things kept secret from the foundation of the world." ³⁶ Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field." ³⁷ He answered and said to them: "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked *one*. ³⁹ The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. ⁴⁰ Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, ⁴² and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

Sunday: Read Psalm 78:1-8; why does God use parables? Please pray for the recent RPTS graduates as they settle into new ministry opportunities, and pray that the Lord would continue to bring students to RPTS to be prepared for kingdom service. Give thanks for the increased attendance at Stornoway (Scotland) RPC.

Monday: What are the things kept secret from the foundation of the world? Praise the Lord for His provision for Christ (Grandview, Mo.) RPC financially this year despite past struggles. Pray for the church in Chengdu, China.

Tuesday: Who is the Son of Man? Please pray for growth in number, holiness, and unity at Oklahoma City, Okla., RPC. Give thanks for the visitors at Airdrie (Scotland) RPC, and pray that they would continue to come and be converted.

Wednesday: What does it mean to be a son of the kingdom? Pray for Grace (Gibsonia, Pa.) RPC as they serve for the second year as the host location for LifeWise Academy, a program that offers Bible instruction to children in the local public school; pray that God would provide the teachers, volunteers, and equipment needed for the program, and that He would work in the hearts of the students to grow His kingdom. Pray for the Kids Club being run at North Edinburgh (Scotland) RPC, and that many children would come to faith in Christ.

Thursday: Who is the wicked one? How are his followers described (see v. 41)? Thank God with Lafayette, Ind., RPC for three new deacons who were installed in April; praise Him for servants who are willing to do kingdom work. Pray for the new Bible class at Kasumigaoka (Kobe, Japan) RPC, aimed at unbelievers.

Friday: How is hell described? Is there any hope for anyone who goes there? Give thanks to the Lord for sustaining Second (Indianapolis, Ind.) RPC and for His rich provision; pray that the Lord to raise up a second pastor for the congregation. Pray for the new members at the RP congregation in Spain.

Saturday: In what ways do the righteous shine forth in the kingdom of their Father? Please pray that the Lord would abundantly bless Southfield, Mich., RPC's two new deacons as they begin their ministry. Pray for the service at Atlanta RPC tomorrow, for many to attend and be positively impacted by the gospel.

Atlanta Reformed Presbyterian Church

*The Lord's Day
August 11, 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 Hebrews 4:15-16

*The Invocation

*Psalm 147A “Praise Ye the Lord, For It Is Good”

Scripture Reading Exodus 1

*Psalm 38D “Lord My God, In Thee I’m Trusting”

Pastoral Prayer

*Psalm 39B “And Now, O Lord, What Wait I Longer For?”

Scripture Text Acts 5

The Sermon “Civil Disobedience”

*Prayer

*Psalm 119R “Thy Testimonies I Observe”

*Benediction

*Psalm 103D “In the Heavens Has 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

“Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!”—Psalm 47:6. “As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.”—Psalm 42:1.

Q. 30. How doth the Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ? A. The Spirit applieth to us the redemption purchased by Christ, by working faith in us, and thereby uniting us to Christ in our effectual calling.

Q. 32. What benefits do they that are effectually called partake of in this life? A. They that are effectually called do in this life partake of justification, adoption, and sanctification, and the several benefits which in this life do either accompany or flow from them.

Q. 33. What is justification? A. Justification is an act of God’s free grace, wherein he pardoneth all our sins, and accepteth us as righteous in his sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone.

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

Theme: God tells us that we must obey Him rather than man.

I. The Classic Text

A. The background

B. The hateful opposition

1. Spurred by jealousy
2. Threat to the power of the elites
3. No rejoicing that people were being helped
4. The arrest—by the high priest and the Sadducees

C. The defeat of the opposition

D. The principle: “We ought to obey God rather than men”

II. Examples Throughout Scripture

A. Daniel 3

B. Exodus 1

C. I Samuel 22:17

D. Acts 4

III. Examples Throughout Church History and Today

A. Roman persecution—burning incense to Caesar

B. The Protestant Reformers

A. The Scottish Covenanters

B. Worship contrary to government orders during COVID-19

E. Refusing to kowtow to transgenderism

F. Not participating in immoral activities

G. Refusing to break the Sabbath

Application

A. Do not employ civil disobedience for slight reasons

B. Always relate your action to the gospel and the kingdom

C. This is a spiritual battle fought via ordinary means of grace