

Matthew 13: ²⁴ Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵ but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. ²⁶ But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. ²⁷ So the servants of the owner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?’ ²⁸ He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The servants said to him, ‘Do you want us then to go and gather them up?’ ²⁹ But he said, ‘No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.” ’ ” ³¹ Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, ³² which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches.” ³³ Another parable He spoke to them: “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened.”

Sunday: **What is the kingdom of heaven all about? Please pray** for the elder training at Messiah’s (Clay, N.Y.) RPC; **pray** that the congregation is able to have a fall election for elder and deacon.

Monday: **Who is the enemy? What Scripture passages can you cite to prove your answer? Pray** for the men in the leadership of Orlando, Fla., RPC: for their strength, their guidance in ministry, and their personal lives as well.

Tuesday: **What does Jesus’ teaching in vv. 29-30 tell us about God’s patience? Pray** for Clarinda, Iowa, RPC students and teachers as they return to school this month, that they would do their work heartily unto the Lord.

Wednesday: **What are tares? What does v. 30 tell us will happen to those identified as tares? Pray** for the start of the new academic year at Indiana University and for the ministry of Bloomington, Ind., RPC to students on the campus.

Thursday: **A mustard seed is tiny; what does v. 32 tell us about the growth of the kingdom? Please pray** for fruit as well as opportunities for follow-up from several summer outreach efforts of Lisbon (Ogdensburg, N.Y.) RPC, including Christianity Explored, VBS, and participation in the town of Lisbon’s homecoming parade to be held August 17.

Friday: **What does v. 32 tell us about the breadth of the kingdom? In what ways is the kingdom broad, and in what ways is it not broad? Please pray** that Grace and Truth (Harrisonburg, Va.) RPC would be able to purchase the building they are currently using at a price they could afford: it would be a great blessing to them to have a building they can call their own and to use throughout the week.

Saturday: **What does v. 33 tell us about the quiet and yet powerful nature of the kingdom? Give thanks** that the Lord has sent two new families with children to Hebron (Clay Center, Kan.) RPC this past year who are participating wholeheartedly in the life and work of the congregation. **Pray** for the communion service at Atlanta RPC tomorrow, that those who participate would do so in a godly manner.

Atlanta Reformed Presbyterian Church

The Lord’s Day
August 4, 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

Psalm 100

*The Invocation

*Psalm 46A

“God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength”

Scripture Reading

Genesis 11:1-9

*Psalm 39B

“And Now, O Lord, What Wait I Longer For?”

Pastoral Prayer

*Psalm 38D

“Lord My God, In Thee I’m Trusting”

Scripture Text

I Kings 21

The Sermon

“Governmental Tyranny”

*Prayer

*Psalm 2

“Why Do Heathen Nations Rage?”

*Benediction

*Psalm 72C [stanzas 11-12]

“Now Blessed Be Our God Alone”

** 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

I Peter 5:2-3: “Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God’s heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.”

II Corinthians 9:15: “Thanks be unto God for His indescribable gift!”

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.

Q. 28. Wherein consisteth Christ’s exaltation? A. Christ’s exaltation consisteth in his rising again from the dead on the third day, in ascending up into heaven, in sitting at the right hand of God the Father, and in coming to judge the world at the last day.

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

The Bible condemns governmental tyranny [cruelty/oppression].

I. The Various Commandments Violated

A. Tenth—coveting: this is a root sin

B. Fifth—authority

1. Misusing authority

2. Manipulating a weak man and using the official seal

3. Corrupting the lesser magistrates, who kowtow to tyrant

4. Undermining the family and Naboth’s inheritance

C. Second—perverting worship: misusing a religious ceremony

D. Third—blaspheming

E. Ninth—lying

F. Sixth—murder (as a result of the lying)

G. Eighth—stealing

H. First—liberty of conscience

II. Examples of Such Tyranny Today

A. Ninth

B. Eighth [“Don’t steal—the government hates competition!”]

C. Seventh—sexual immorality; “same-sex marriage”

D. Sixth—support of abortion; needless wars

E. Fifth—attempts to destroy family and church

F. Fourth—forcing people to violate the Sabbath

G. First—punishing people for maintaining the truth

III. The Aftermath

A. Confrontation by Elijah

B. Judgment carried out—I Kings 22; II Kings 9

Application

A. Recognize the global nature of the threat of tyranny

B. Recognize the cosmic nature of the threat of tyranny

C. Do not support politicians who tyrannize people

D. Participate in the political process under King Jesus

1. He alone is the King

2. He is the Savior

3. He is the one who died and rose again and ascended