

From Matthew 5: ²⁷“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. ³⁰And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. ³¹“Furthermore it has been said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ ³²But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.”

Sunday: Which commandment deals with adultery? Please pray that the Lord would grant OKC (Oklahoma City, Okla.) RPC ruling elders and deacons to serve in the congregation. **Pray** for Prof. Tom Reid, who suffered a fall while running over a week ago, and for Gainesville, Fla., RP Fellowship, which he pastors.

Monday: What else does Jesus say this commandment forbids? Pray with Westminster, Colo., RPC that God would give them boldness and wisdom in witnessing to their neighbors, community, and families. **Pray** for Rev. Stephen McCollum and Rev. Peter Loughridge as they have to traveled to The Gambia as a commission of the RPC of Scotland in order to ordain Sylvester Konteh as a minister and organize the congregation in Brikama.

Tuesday: Why is lusting so bad? Pray for additional family units to join with Atlanta, Ga., RPC. **Pray** for Stranraer (Scotland) RPC and the three people who are hoping to become members this summer.

Wednesday: Is Jesus saying that we should literally pluck out our right eye and cut off our right hand? If not, then what does He mean? Pray with Washington, Iowa, RPC for patience as they look to call a pastor. **Give thanks** for the children who attend the Good News Club at Bready (Northern Ireland) RPC, and **pray** for them.

Thursday: What is the danger of not repenting (vv. 29-30)? Pray for volunteers from Covenant Fellowship (Wilkinsburg, Pa.) RPC’s partnership each Saturday with the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank and Wilkinsburg Community Ministry to distribute food from the church’s parking lot to community members in need; **pray also** that spiritual as well as physical needs would be met. **Pray** for the growth of the Reformed Presbyterian faith in Spanish-speaking countries, such as Spain and in Latin America.

Friday: V. 31 quotes Deuteronomy 24:1. What does it imply about the seriousness and public nature of divorce? Pray for College Hill (Beaver Falls, Pa.) RPC’s ministry to Geneva College and the local community, asking for clear direction and willing hearts to build up the kingdom of God. **Pray** for the ministry to students at Shaftesbury RP Fellowship, located in a needy area of Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Saturday: Besides adultery, what is the other ground for divorce? Praise the Lord with Elkhart, Ind., RPC for Pastor Wade Mann’s faithful expounding of God’s word and shepherding ministry. **Pray** for safety for the Pattillos as they travel over to Birmingham, Ala., RPC, where T.J. will be preaching tomorrow. **Pray** for the service at Atlanta RPC tomorrow, that there would be many visitors to be present.

Atlanta Reformed Presbyterian Church

*The Lord’s Day
May 7, 2023*

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 12:22-23

*The Invocation

*Psalm 95A

“O Come and to Jehovah Sing”

Scripture Reading
Pastoral Prayer

Exodus 17:1-7

*Psalm 17B

“On You, O God, My Soul Has Called”

Scripture Text

Psalm 95

The Sermon

“Meribah, Massah, and the Law of God”

*Prayer

*Psalm 95B

“O Come and Let Us Worship Him”

The Administration of the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

*Psalm 118C [stanzas 14-17]

“This Is the Day the Lord Has Made”

*Benediction

*Psalm 115B

“O Israel, Trust Ye in the Lord”

* *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

“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”—Hebrews 9:27. “For the word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”—Hebrews 4:12.

Q. 91. How do the sacraments become effectual means of salvation? A. The sacraments become effectual means of salvation, not from any virtue in them, or in him that doth administer them; but only by the blessing of Christ, and the working of his Spirit in them that by faith receive them.

Q. 92. What is a sacrament? A. A sacrament is a holy ordinance instituted by Christ; wherein, by sensible signs, Christ, and the benefits of the new covenant, are represented, sealed, and applied to believers.

Q. 93. Which are the sacraments of the New Testament? A. The sacraments of the New Testament are, baptism, and the Lord’s Supper.

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

Psalm 95:7c-11 “Meribah, Massah, and the Law of God”

Theme: The psalmist illustrates that the law drives sinners.

I. Awakening: to awaken their consciences to flee from wrath

A. “Today”

1. Historical/redemptive significance
2. The word implies a priority
 - a. Don’t delay!
 - b. An urgency

B. “if you would hear His voice”

1. His voice—God’s talking; Exodus 19-20
2. If you’d hear it: to hear leads to obedience
3. The nature of God’s law
 - a. Authoritative—detailed; binding
 - b. Token of God’s grace and love

II. Response by Man

A. Negative (continuing in the estate and way of sin)

1. Subjectively—hardening of the heart
 2. Objectively—testing God (v. 9)
- B. Positive—to drive them to Christ
1. The command (“Do not harden”) implies choice/decision
 2. James 1:22-25; pride vs. remorse and repentance
 3. Galatians 3:24—the law was schoolmaster (*paidagogos*)

III. Result (negatively): to leave them inexcusable

- A. Inexcusable: they knew these were God’s works
- B. Cursed

IV. Examples

- A. Meribah and Massah—both had to do with water
- B. Luke 18:9-14—two effects of the law

- C. II Corinthians 2:15-16—preaching has two effects
- D. Hebrews 4:12—the Word itself has power

sacrifice which Jesus paid at the cross for sin. **We also encourage you to ask how you can join with us the next time we observe this sacrament.**

Summary and conclusion

- A. God’s law drives us to Christ, or drives us away
- B. What effect has the law of God had in your life?

Participation in the Lord’s Supper

The Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America (RPCNA) takes the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper very seriously. In it, Jesus Himself meets with His people, in a time of sweet fellowship with our Savior.

But it is precisely because of this holy nature of communion, that it must not be taken lightly. Historically, Presbyterians have confessed that the elders of the church have a responsibility to ensure that only those who can make a valid profession of faith and have been admitted to membership in an evangelical church, be allowed to partake of the bread and the wine.

Accordingly, we ask that only those who have had opportunity to meet with the elders of this congregation partake of this holy meal. While the individual has primary responsibility before the Lord for partaking in a worthy manner, the elders of the church also have a responsibility in this matter.

Those who have received a valid Trinitarian baptism and are members of a Bible-believing church, and would like to participate in the Lord’s Supper, are invited to contact us prior to the date of observance, so that arrangements can be made for them to commune with us at the Lord’s table.

If you are not eligible to partake of this sacrament on this particular Lord’s Day, we still invite you to come and worship with us, and to commune in your heart by meditating on the great