

Readings from Matthew chapter 15—July 25th-31st, 2021

10 When He had called the multitude to Himself, He said to them, “Hear and understand: **11** Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man.” **12** Then His disciples came and said to Him, “Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?” **13** But He answered and said, “Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. **14** Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.” **15** Then Peter answered and said to Him, “Explain this parable to us.” **16** So Jesus said, “Are you also still without understanding? **17** Do you not yet understand that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated? **18** But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. **19** For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. **20** These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man.”

Sunday: **How do we hear Jesus today? Please pray** with Westminster, Colo., RPC for parents as they raise their children; **pray** for strong marriages, wisdom in parenting, and the salvation of all the children. **Pray** for the spiritual growth of the children at Milford (Northern Ireland) RPC.

Monday: **Why were the Pharisees offended by Jesus? Are you offended by Him? Please pray** for the Lord to raise up more and more men for the pastoral ministry to train at the Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and even that the Lord may lead a good number to begin their studies this fall. **Pray** for the outreach efforts at Cloughmills (Northern Ireland) RPC, that they'd yield a bountiful spiritual harvest.

Tuesday: **According to v. 13, what is the only hope any of us has? See John 6:44; Ephesians 1:3-6. Pray** with Topeka RPC for Bill McFarland, a teacher for the last 44 years, and his plans for the future as he retired at the end of this school year. **Pray** for our Synod Judicial Commission, handling serious charges against church leaders.

Wednesday: **What are some examples of blind leaders of the blind? Give thanks** for the blessing the weekly fellowship groups at Ottawa, Ont., RPC are proving to be. **Pray** that the people of Atlanta would have discernment and not follow false teachers.

Thursday: **What does it mean to fall into a ditch? Please pray** that those who have not attended worship because of compromised health issues may be able to return to worship and praise the Lord with the rest of Hetherton (Johannesburg, Mich.) RPC. **Give thanks** for two upcoming covenant baptisms at Glasgow (Scotland) RPC.

Friday: **What is the relationship between the heart and the mouth? Read James 3:1-12. Pray** for the Lord to have His perfect work and way in the lives of those at Orlando, Fla., RPC. **Pray** for two more regular attenders at Stranraer

(Scotland) RPC.

Saturday: **Compare v. 19 with I Corinthians 6:9-11. What is the eternal destiny of those who, without repentance, display this wickedness? What is their only hope? Please pray** with Westminster, Colo., RPC as they lift up their single members; **pray** that they will wait for God's best, whatever that might be in their situation. **Pray** for the communion service tomorrow at ARPC, that all would go well.

Atlanta

Reformed

Presbyterian

Church

The Lord's Day

July 25, 2021

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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<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	Romans 8:1-4
*The Invocation	
*Psalm 106A	“O Praise the Lord! O Thank the Lord!”
Scripture Reading	Acts 13:42-52
*Psalm 35A	“Plead, Lord, Against Contending Foes”
Pastoral Prayer	
*Psalm 70C	“Hasten, O God, to My Rescue!”
Scripture Text	Revelation 2:8-11
The Sermon	“Letter to the Church in Smyrna” (Part 1)
*Prayer	
*Psalm 35C	“False Witnesses Against Me

Stood”

*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.

“And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”—Ephesians 1:22-23.

Q. 31. What is effectual calling? A. Effectual calling is the work of God’s Spirit, whereby, convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ, and renewing our wills, he doth persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered to us in the gospel.

Q. 76. Which is the ninth commandment? A. The ninth commandment is, Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

Q. 77. What is required in the ninth commandment? A. The ninth commandment requireth the maintaining and promoting of truth between man and man, and of our own and our neighbor's good name, especially in witness-bearing.

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

Revelation 2:8-11 “Letter to the Church in Smyrna” (Part 1)
Christ commends the church for its faithfulness in troublous times.

Introduction

A. Smyrna

1. The city: the jewel of Asia Minor; the crown of Smyrna
2. The church: surrounded by hostile forces (Jews and pagans)

B. Introduction to the text

1. “And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write”
2. The Lord Jesus Christ: “the first and the last”; dead, now alive

I. Encouragement

A. Knowledge of the troubles

1. “I know”—what comfort that Jesus knows your troubles!

2. Works = good deeds
3. Tribulation
 - a. Christ promised persecution
 - b. The word used here refers to being in narrow straits
4. Poverty—being left destitute, because of the gospel
5. Blasphemy
 - a. Slander against the believers, trying to destroy their reputations
 - b. Actual blasphemy against God—slandering the Lord Jesus
 - c. Who were these people who were blaspheming?
 - (1) Jews, nationally and racially
 - (2) Actually, they were a synagogue of Satan

B. “But you are rich”

1. That is, the midst of outward poverty, you are spiritually rich

2. Rich in every way: knowledge of the truth; works and patience; strong spiritual life of bearing the cross; experiential knowledge/growth
3. Why? Theological, spiritual, and historical reasons

Application

- A. Beware the wickedness of false churches!
 1. “When the church and the world agree, the time has come for the child of God to prepare for martyrdom.”—McKnight
 2. Marks of a church: preaching; sacraments; church discipline
 3. Examples of wickedness: promoting open immorality (abortion; homosexuality); idolatry; denial of the gospel of Jesus Christ

B. Be rich in Christ