

From Matthew 7: ¹³“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. ¹⁴ Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. ¹⁵“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? ¹⁷Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor *can* a bad tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰Therefore by their fruits you will know them. ²¹“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²²Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ ²³And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”

Sunday: **Why is the gate to heaven narrow? Pray** with New Creation (Kitchener, Ont.) RPC for the conversion of unbelieving family members. **Pray** that the non-Christians who’ve recently attended Frankston (Australia) RPC would be converted.

Monday: **Why is the gate to hell broad? Please pray** for continued unity within Terre Haute, Ind., RPC. **Pray** that the outreach efforts by Faughan RPC (Londonderry, Northern Ireland) would result in many folks coming to faith in Jesus.

Tuesday: **What makes false prophets so deceptive? What examples can you name of false prophets? Pray** for the members of Topeka, Kan., RPC session. Pray for faithfulness in visitation and shepherding responsibilities. **Pray** that the RPCNA missions team, completing its ministry at Enniskillen (Northern Ireland) RPC this week, would see souls for their labor. **Pray** that Stornoway (Scotland) RPC would soon get its own church building. **Pray** that folks being ministered to by Gateway (Derry, Northern Ireland) RPC through its new premises would come to faith in Jesus.

Wednesday: **How can you tell if a preacher is a wolf in sheep’s clothing? Please pray** with Eastvale (Beaver Falls, Pa.) RPC for Christ to be glorified in their sanctification. **Pray** that the refugee women being ministered to by Geelong (Australia) RPC would come to know Christ as Savior and Lord. **Pray** that the Lord would bless the men’s and women’s ministries at Clare (Northern Ireland) RPC.

Thursday: **What are examples of bad fruit? Praise God** with Elkins Park, Pa., RPC as Pastor John Edgar successfully defended his D.Min. dissertation, and was awarded the doctor of ministry degree in May. **Pray** that the RP church in Brikama, The Gambia, would soon be able to place a church building on its property. **Pray** that the Lord would bring at least three new families to Atlanta RPC by year’s end.

Friday: **Why are false prophets deceived regarding their eternal destiny? Please pray** that the Lord would use Christ (Riverside, R.I.) RPC as an effective witness to their new community and draw in new members. **Pray** that the gospel seeds sown by Cullybackey (Northern Ireland) would sprout into conversions.

Saturday: **What does it mean to be known by Christ? Does He know you? Pray** for more personal opportunities for Orlando, Fla., RPC’s members to minister to those who have need. **Pray** for the service tomorrow at Atlanta RPC.

Atlanta Reformed Presbyterian Church

The Lord’s Day
July 30, 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

4:15

*The Invocation

*Psalm 106A

“O Praise the Lord! O Thank the Lord!”

Scripture Reading

Exodus 32:1-14

*Psalm 106C

“The People Soon Forgot His Works”

Pastoral Prayer

*Psalm 21B

“Because the King Trusts in the Lord”

Scripture Text

Acts 8:9-24

The Sermon

“Superstitious Worship: Its Idolatry and Danger”

*Prayer

*Psalm 128A

“How Blessed All Who Fear the Lord”

*Benediction

*Psalm 134B

“Bless the Lord, All Servants of 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

Q 47. What is forbidden in the first commandment? A. The first commandment forbiddeth the denying, or not worshipping and glorifying, the true God as God, and our God; and the giving of that worship and glory to any other, which is due to him alone.

Q. 48. What are we specially taught by these words before me in the first commandment? A. These words before me in the first commandment teach us, that God, who seeth all things, taketh notice of, and is much displeased with, the sin of having any other god.

Q. 49. Which is the second commandment? A. The second commandment is, Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for

I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

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

Theme: The law condemns all unauthorized religious service.

I. Superstitious worship

A. False elements and practices of worship; sensualism

B. False views of worship

1. False views of the sacraments—Lord’s Supper; baptism
2. Thinking of worship as man-centered and entertainment

C. Manmade devices in order to create an atmosphere

1. Images
2. Candles and incense
3. Places of worship to stimulate a spirit of worship
4. Religious holy days/holidays
5. Holy water, medallions, rosaries, statues, etc.
6. Crosses

II. Simony and Sacrilege

A. Simony—refers to Simon Magus

B. Sacrilege

1. Treating with disrespect that which is holy
2. Examples
3. Supporting false worship and religion

III. Danger of violating this commandment

A. Sensualism

B. Offending God’s people by imposing un-Biblical worship

C. Offending God who is jealous for His own glory

1. He is sovereign and He owns us
2. He has zeal for His own worship: “am a jealous God”
3. He threatens punishment by “visiting” iniquity

Application

- A. Rejoice in the blessing of God to you and your descendants who keep this commandment
- B. Remember that you cannot fulfill the demands of the second commandment—which is why you need a mediator!