

From Matthew 9: ¹⁴Then the disciples of John came to Him, saying, “Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but Your disciples do not fast?” ¹⁵And Jesus said to them, “Can the friends of the bridegroom mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast. ¹⁶No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; for the patch pulls away from the garment, and the tear is made worse. ¹⁷Nor do they put new wine into old wineskins, or else the wineskins break, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But they put new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved.”

Sunday: **What is fasting?** **Pray** with Orlando, Fla., RPC for Jean Forest following the loss of her husband, Ed; **pray** also for their adult children: Roy, Tom, and Jim, along with their grandchildren and other extended family members. **Give thanks** for the recent regular visitors at North Edinburgh (Scotland) RPC, and **pray** that they would profess faith and join the congregation.

Monday: **What is the purpose of fasting?** **Praise God** for the gift of a building for Russell, Ont., RPC to worship in and for the increased visibility it gives them in the community, with many new visitors coming—and many staying—since the move there; **pray** for wisdom regarding if or when they should proceed to phase 2, which would add a dedicated sanctuary to the existing building. **Pray** for the raising of funds for the temporary building being erected for the RP church in Brikama, The Gambia.

Tuesday: **Is Jesus for or against fasting?** **Pray** for the families at Christ (Rome, N.Y.) RPC who have the joyous sound of babies in their homes. **Pray** for a suitable meeting place for Stornoway (Scotland) RPC. **Pray** for the raising up of RP congregations in Central and South America.

Wednesday: **Why did Jesus say that His disciples were not fasting?** **Pray** for several of the women in Grace (Gibsonia, Pa.) RPC who are expecting in the next several months. **Pray** for San Diego, Calif., RPC, as it very much needs a pastor.

Thursday: **Who is the bridegroom? (And who, therefore, is the bride?)** **Pray** with White Lake, N.Y., RPC for newly appointed Covenanter camp leaders: Chris Huggins, manager, and Jonathan McDonald and his support directors; and also **pray** for the camp counselors. **Pray** for our brothers and sisters in China, who are being persecuted for their Christian faith; **pray** for the overthrow of the wicked rulers. **Pray** for the meeting of Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery tomorrow, that those traveling would have safety, and that all the decisions made would be in accordance with God's word.

Friday: **What is Jesus' point regarding the garment and the wineskins?** **Pray** for the Paideia Christian Co-op, a ministry of Columbus, Ind., RPC; **pray** that the teaching and fellowship of students and teachers would be centered on Christ, and that many would learn of the Word and of God's world. **Pray** for Rev. Edgar Ibarra and Las Vegas, Nev., RPC. **Pray** for encouragement for a budding group in Lexington, Ky., interested in establishing an RP congregation there.

Saturday: **Are there things for which the church should fast today (and if so, what are they)?** **Give thanks** for Christ (East Providence, R.I.) RPC's new Trail Life Troop, and **pray** that God will send boys, dads, and families to their church. **Pray** for many to attend the service tomorrow at Atlanta RPC.

Atlanta Reformed Presbyterian Church

*The Lord's Day
October 1, 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

Psalm 34:18

*The Invocation

*Psalm 24B

“The Earth Belongeth to the Lord”

Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 23:1-32

*Psalm 69B

“O God, My Foolishness and Sins”

Pastoral Prayer

*Psalm 78C

“Yet in the Desert Still They Sinned”

Scripture Text

Jeremiah 36:20-32

The Sermon

“What the Third Commandment Forbids” (Part 2)

*Prayer

*Psalm 25C

“The Lord Is Good and Just”

*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

“Quench not the Spirit.”—I Thessalonians 5:19. “Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean; wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.”—Psalm 51:7. “For the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”—Revelation 7:17.

Q. 54. What is required in the third commandment? A. The third commandment requireth the holy and reverent use of God's names, titles, attributes, ordinances, word and works.

Q. 55. What is forbidden in the third commandment? A. The third commandment forbiddeth all profaning or abusing of anything whereby God maketh himself known.

Q. 56. What is the reason annexed to the third commandment? A. The reason annexed to the third commandment is that however the breakers of this commandment may escape punishment from men, yet the Lord our God will not suffer them to escape his righteous judgment.

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

Theme: The third commandment forbids all profaning or abusing or anything whereby God makes Himself known.

I. God's Revealed Character

II. God's Ordinances

A. Irreverence in attendance upon them

B. Slight and formal regarding them

C. Hypocrisy

D. Despising God's ordinances

III. God's Word

A. Treating the word disrespectfully—Jer. 23:33, 36; 36:20-32

B. Twisting the word into false doctrine

C. Misapplying the word

D. Not paying heed to the word (II Peter 3:3-4)

Application

A. Treat the worship of God with utmost respect

B. Treat the word of God as most precious

C. Be discerning regarding the word of God