

From Mark 4: 14 “The sower sows the word. **15** And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts. **16** These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; **17** and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word’s sake, immediately they stumble. **18** Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, **19** and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. **20** But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.” **21** Also He said to them, “Is a lamp brought to be put under a basket or under a bed? Is it not to be set on a lampstand? **22** For there is nothing hidden which will not be revealed, nor has anything been kept secret but that it should come to light. **23** If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.”

Sunday: Where did Satan come from? Pray that God would provide pastoral leadership to the San Antonio and Houston church plants. **Pray** for Selma (Ala.) RPC.

Monday: Why does Satan seek to snatch away the Word? Pray for the church plants in Reno, Nev. (Great Basin RPC), Las Vegas, Nev. (Las Vegas RPM), Irvine, Calif. (All Saints RPC—Mandarin speaking), and Boise, Idaho (Treasure Valley RPM), that God would bless the labors of their hands in 2023. **Give thanks** for the installation of Rev. Paul Flynn at Rathfriland (Northern Ireland) RPC.

Tuesday: Is it possible to have a temporary faith? Have you known people who are initially excited about Christianity who later abandon it? Why did they do so? Give thanks for the many different denominations and churches who are turning to Crown & Covenant Publications to learn how to sing psalms; **pray** that God would bless those new places where the psalter is being sung in worship. **Pray** for Stranraer (Scotland) RPC, that it would be encouraged and would experience growth.

Wednesday: What are some things that can distract from the Word? Pray with North Hills (Pittsburgh, Pa.) RPC that the church’s efforts to serve Afghan refugees will be blessed; specifically, that God would grant that people would be converted to Christ through the diligent ministry of a number of hard-working congregation members. **Pray** that Gateway (Northern Ireland) RPC could secure a building.

Thursday: What is the fruit that comes from the Word sprouting? Pray that the Lord would provide godly maturity and godly spouses for Southfield, Mich., RPC’s many young adult communicants. **Pray** for Rev. Gareth Burke as he speaks at the Armagh City Hotel (Northern Ireland) tomorrow through Sunday.

Friday: How should v. 22 affect how we live? What application does it have to the church and how it conducts its business? Pray that Washington, Iowa, RPC would be able to minister effectively to their neighbors, especially in an area that is largely nominally Christian but where many lack true faith. **Pray** for relief from shingles for Rosa Waters, a lady from Frankston (Australia) RPC.

Saturday: What does it mean to hear the Word? Praise God with Black Forest (Colorado Springs, Colo.) RPC for the election of more deacons and elders for their congregation. **Pray** for the service at Atlanta RPC tomorrow, for many to attend.

Atlanta Reformed Presbyterian Church

The Lord’s Day
March 12, 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

Psalms 95:1-2

*The Invocation

*Psalm 122A

“I Was Glad to Hear Them Saying”

Scripture Reading

Matthew 17:1-21

*Psalm 70C

“Hasten, O God, To My Rescue!”

Pastoral Prayer

*Psalm 15

“Lord, In Thy Tent Who Will Abide with Thee?”

Scripture Text

Ezra 8

The Sermon

“St. Ezra’s Return—The Details” (Part 3)

*Prayer

*Psalm 126A

“The Lord Brought Zion’s Exiles Back”

*Benediction

*Psalm 124B

“Now Israel May Say and That in Truth”

**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

“Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever. As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds His people from this time forth and forever.”—Psalm 125:1-2.

“When the Lord brought back the captivity of Zion, we were like those who dream.”—Psalm 126:1.

Q. 32. What benefits do they that are effectually called partake of in this life? A. They that are effectually called do in this life partake of justification, adoption, and sanctification, and the several benefits which in this life do either accompany or flow from them.

Q. 33. What is justification? A. Justification is an act of God’s free grace, wherein he pardoneth all our sins, and accepteth us as righteous in his sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone.

Q. 34. What is adoption? A. Adoption is an act of God’s free grace, whereby we are received into the number, and have a right to all the privileges, of the sons of God.

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

Theme: God (graciously) enables Ezra to return to Jerusalem.

I. People of Ezra’s Return (vv. 1-20)

II. Provision of Ezra’s Return (vv. 24-30, 33-36)

III. Protection for Ezra’s Return (vv. 21-23, 31-32)

A. The means—fasting and prayer

B. The extent (v. 21)

C. The reasons for asking for God’s protection

D. Deliverance

Application

A. Pay attention to matters of religion and worship

B. Depend totally upon God

