

Readings from Matthew chapter 16—August 22nd-29th, 2021

13 When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” **14** So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” **15** He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” **16** Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” **17** Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. **18** And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. **19** And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” **20** Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ.

Sunday: **Why does Jesus call Himself the Son of Man?** **Pray** for Carrickfergus (Northern Ireland) RPC as it ministers to unbelievers; **pray especially** for the conversion of Charlie and Valerie. **Give thanks to God** for excellent eldership at Terre Haute, Ind., RPC, with two ruling elders in addition to their teaching elder.

Monday: **Read II Kings 2:4-11 and Jeremiah 1:1-10. Why might someone think that Jesus was one of those prophets?** **Give thanks and pray for God's blessing** on several recently married young couples in the Lisbon, N.Y., RPC. **Pray** for the raising up of a deacon or two for Atlanta RPC.

Tuesday: **Have you answered the question for yourself as to who Jesus is?** **Praise God** with Tri-Lakes (Monument, Colo.) RPC for the blessing of having their own building in which to worship; **pray** for wisdom for how to best utilize the space and plan for expansion. **Pray** for Airdrie (Scotland) RPC, as it needs a pastor.

Wednesday: **Have you received the blessing of Christ?** **Pray** for Denison, Kan., RPC community outreach, including Sunday evening dinner hosted by the pastor who grills hamburgers for members and friends, and Wednesday evening Bible study at Finer Than a Frog's Hair bar and grill, led by Pastor Caleb Allen. **Pray** for Woodstock (Scotland) RPC, for new individuals and families to come, and for outreach efforts.

Thursday: **Read Ephesians 2:19-22 and Acts 1:15-26. Is it possible for the apostles and prophets to be the foundation of the church apart from their giving a true profession of faith?** **Pray** for Anugraha RPC, Bangalore, India, that they would be able to meet in person without any further interruptions due to COVID-19. **Praise God** for the new elder installed at McKinnon (Australia) RPC.

Friday: **Read Matthew 18:15-18. To what do the keys of the kingdom refer?** **Give thanks to God** that Terre Haute, Ind., RPC is united and committed to the work they are doing. **Pray** for the Christians in Afghanistan, who are in grave danger; **pray** for their protection and faithfulness, and that their witness would lead others to Jesus.

Saturday: **Why does Jesus command His disciples not to tell anyone that He was Jesus the Christ?** **Pray** for wisdom for the elders at Bloomington, Ind., RPC as they seek ways to expand the facility to accommodate the growth of the congregation. **Pray** for the service at ARPC tomorrow, that many folks would come to worship.

Atlanta

Reformed

Presbyterian

Church

The Lord's Day
August 22, 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 Psalm 27:4

*The Invocation

*Psalm 104A “My Soul, Bless Lord! Lord God, You Are Great!”

Scripture Reading Genesis 3

*Psalm 35B “Without a Cause a Net They Hid”

Pastoral Prayer

*Psalm 56 “Be Gracious unto Me, O God”

Scripture Text Revelation 2:12-17

The Sermon “Letter to the Church in Pergamum” (Part 1)

*Prayer

*Psalm 57B “O Be Exalted High, O God!”

*Benediction

*Psalm 150B “Praise the Lord! Praise God in His Sanctuary”

** 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

“Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”—Colossians 3:2.

“‘I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,’ says the Lord, ‘who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.’”—Revelation 1:8.

“For our God is a consuming fire.”—Hebrews 12:29.

Q. 35. What is sanctification? A. Sanctification is the work of God’s free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.

Q. 80. What is required in the tenth commandment? A. The tenth commandment requireth full contentment with our own condition, with a right and charitable frame of spirit toward our neighbor, and all that is his.

Q. 81. What is forbidden in the tenth commandment? A. The tenth commandment forbiddeth all discontentment with our own estate, envying or grieving at the good of our neighbor, and all inordinate motions and affections to anything that is his.

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

Revelation 2:12-17 “Letter to the Church in Pergamum” (Part 1)
Theme: Christ warns the church that is lax in discipline.

A. Pergamum

1. The city—impression of a royal city, built on a huge rocky hill; dedicated to emperor worship; also, Zeus, Athena, Dionysos, Asklepios
2. The church—faced twin dangers of persecution and seduction

B. Introduction of the text

1. “To the angel . . .”
2. Description of Christ with sharp, double-edged sword

I. Encouragement

A. Danger

1. “I know where you dwell”—God knows your address
2. “where Satan’s throne is”
 - a. Satan
 - b. Why is it that Pergamum is said to be where Satan’s throne is?
 - (1) Throne => power/dominion

- (2) The city was the administrative capital of the Province
- (3) The chief seat of State religion was located there
- (4) The Serpent worship very definitely pointed to the devil

B. Faithfulness

1. “you hold fast My Name”
2. “and did not deny My faith”

C. Martyrdom

Application

A. Be prepared for persecution (I Peter 4:4)

“A self-centred permissive society can be curiously hard on those who refuse to go along with it. . . . The gay streets of Vanity Fair can still lead to prison and a stake: either you buy or you burn.”—Wilcock.

B. Hold fast to Christ’s name

1. It’s not as if His name is a magical mantra
2. Yes, His name is precious
3. But to hold to Christ’s name is to believe in Him and to embrace His Person and Work