

From Matthew 9: ⁹As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." So he arose and followed Him. ¹⁰Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, *that* behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples. ¹¹And when the Pharisees saw *it*, they said to His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹²When Jesus heard *that*, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³But go and learn what *this* means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

Sunday: What does Matthew's job teach us about whether believers may be involved in government service? **Pray** for the several teachers in Clarinda, Iowa, RPC as they return to their educational responsibilities in the fall semester. **Pray** for Daniel Konteh of the RP church in Brikama, The Gambia, that the doctors would get the right balance for his medication.

Monday: What does Romans 13:1-7 tell us about the duties of government service? **Pray** for recent high school and college graduates in Lisbon, N.Y., RPC, as they move on to the next stages of their lives, to seek the Lord's wisdom and guidance in all their endeavors. **Pray** for Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary, including its professors, students, and staff.

Tuesday: What does Deuteronomy 17:14-20 tell us about the attitudes and duties that should characterize government officials? **Give thanks** that a number of folks from Bloomington, Ind., RPC served in mission trips this summer to ECHO (Florida), Covenant Fellowship (Pittsburgh), and Airdrie (Scotland); **pray** that they would bring this heart for missions back to Bloomington RPC to reach people in their community.

Wednesday: Why were tax collectors so unpopular and viewed with such contempt? (See Luke 19:1-10.) **Pray** with Salt and Light (Longmont, Colo.) RPC for their local pregnancy center as it recovers from a fire bombing only to have increased government regulations placed upon them; **please pray** for blessings on the work and service the center provides to the community. **Pray** for Grace (Gibsonia, Pa.) RPC, and especially the wife of the pastor, Dr. Jeff Stivason, Tab, who has cancer.

Thursday: What is the probable occupation of those called "sinners"? **Pray** with Clarinda, Iowa, RPC for the residents and staff of the nursing home where Elder Ren Adams leads worship each Lord's Day afternoon. **Give thanks** for the resumption of Bible classes at Airdrie (Scotland) RPC; **pray** for growth in knowledge and grace.

Friday: Does Jesus accept sinners apart from repentance? (See Luke 13:1-5.) **Pray** with Orlando, Fla., RPC that the Lord will continue to grow and prosper the ministry in Gainesville, Fla. **Pray** for the elders at North Edinburgh (Scotland) RPC to have wisdom in discipling the young people of the congregation. **Pray** for the Blakstons as they have accepted a call to minister in South Sudan; **pray** that other elders would be raised up for the Frankston (Australia) RPC.

Saturday: How are Jesus' words of comfort to those who are sinners and who acknowledge their sin? **Please pray** for the children of Eastvale (Beaver Falls, Pa.) RPC to love and follow Christ from an early age. **Pray** for the service at ARPC tomorrow, that many would come and join us for the worship of God.

Atlanta Reformed Presbyterian Church

The Lord's Day
September 24, 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 27:4

*The Invocation

*Psalm 19A

“The Spacious Heav’ns Declare”

Scripture Reading

Leviticus 24:10-23

*Psalm 25C

“The Lord Is Good and Just”

Pastoral Prayer

*Psalm 94A

“God of Vengeance, O Jehovah”

Scripture Text

Matthew 5:33-37

The Sermon

“What the Third Commandment Forbids” (Part 1)

*Prayer

*Psalm 54B

“By Your Name, O God, Now Save Me”

*Benediction

*Psalm 68E

“O All Ye Kingdoms of the Earth”

** 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

“Then will I teach transgressors Thy ways, and sinners shall be converted unto Thee.”—Psalm 51:13. “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”—I John 1:9. “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”—Romans 3:23. “So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.”—Mark 16:19.

Q. 53. Which is the third commandment? A. The third commandment is, Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

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.

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

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

I. God’s Revealed Character

A. Irreverence

1. Thinking slightly or irreverently of these things
2. Speaking irreverently regarding God (Psalm 139:20)

B. Sinful swearing

1. Overuse or abuse of oaths
2. False swearing—Zechariah 5:4

C. Cursing

D. Blaspheming God’s name

1. Speaking against anything whereby He reveals Himself
2. Ascribing anything to God not worthy of Him: James 1:13
3. Taunting/jesting regarding Him

E. Superstitious use

1. Just repeating the name of God: Jeremiah 7:4
2. God’s name in charms or incantations: Acts 19:13, 16

Observations

- A. The notion of blasphemy is ingrained in man
- B. Blasphemy is against only the true and living God

Application

- A. Think!!!
 1. How careful are you about the name of God?
 2. How de-sensitized have we become on this issue?

B. Be thankful for the sacrifice of Christ

1. Blasphemy warranted the death penalty
2. It is certainly a horrible sin against God
3. But Christ, who was falsely accused of blasphemy,
died for us—the just for the unjust!