

Readings from Matthew chapter 13—May 9<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**18** “Therefore hear the parable of the sower: **19** When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. **20** But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; **21** yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. **22** Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. **23** But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

**Sunday:** **Why does Jesus refer to the word of the kingdom? Pray** that the Lord would send a quiet spirit to the children at Atlanta (Ga.) RPC so that they may be trained to show respect and reverence during the worship service. **Pray** for God’s blessing on Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery, as it faces many difficult challenges.

**Monday:** **Who is the wicked one? Pray** for Seattle (Wash.) RPC’s elders to be strengthened in their callings. **Pray** for Pastor and Mrs. Smith, traveling tomorrow.

**Tuesday:** **Besides “the wicked one,” what other terms are used to refer to him? Pray** for Los Angeles (Calif.) RPC’s student of theology Jerry Foltz as he graduates from the Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary this month and seeks a call. **Pray** for Deacon Hamada at Kasumigaoka RPC (Kobe, Japan), needing surgery. **Pray** for India, suffering with COVID; **pray** that the people of that nation would repent of their sins and turn in faith to Christ; **pray** for the RP mission in Bangalore.

**Wednesday:** **In what ways can the wicked one snatch away the word? Pray** that those at Christ Church (Floyd, N.Y.) who cannot attend worship in person would be ever watchful of their Christian walk while in isolation. **Pray** for the RP Bookshop in Galway, Ireland, for grace to be able to operate, and for its ministry of grace.

**Thursday:** **What are some of the temptations today with regard to tribulation and persecution? Pray** for Pastor Jeff Stivason as he faithfully serves both his flock at Grace RPC (Gibsonia, Pa.) and the students at the Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary. **Pray** that North Edinburgh (Scotland) RPC would soon be able to have a building of its own **Pray** for Stornoway (Scotland) RPC’s growth.

**Friday:** **In terms of perseverance, read I Corinthians 9:24-27 and reflect on what the apostle Paul said about himself. Please pray** for Shelter (Edmonton, Alb.) RPC’s protection from governmental COVID restrictions in Canada. **Pray** for the Creation conference, hosted tomorrow at Bailiesmills (Northern Ireland) RPC.

**Saturday:** **What is the fruit to which Jesus is referring in v. 9? Ask the Lord** to bless the orchard at Covenant Fellowship (Wilkinsburg, Pa.) RPC; **pray** that there might be a good harvest of fruit to bless the neighborhood. **Pray** for the RP mission work in South Asia. **Pray** for the service at ARPC tomorrow, that God would be

glorified and that all would go smoothly.

Atlanta

Reformed

Presbyterian

Church

*The Lord’s Day*

*May 9, 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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Proclaiming the Kingship  
of Jesus Christ

Welcome and Announcements  
Scripture Memory and Catechism Questions  
The Call to Worship Psalm 100  
  
\*The Invocation  
\*Psalm 138B “With All My Heart My Thanks I’ll Bring”  
  
Scripture Reading Hosea 2  
\*Psalm 1A “O Greatly Blessed is the Man”  
Pastoral Prayer  
\*Psalm 128A “How Blessed All Who Fear the Lord”  
  
Scripture Text I Thessalonians 5:25-28  
  
The Sermon “Final Blessing”  
\*Prayer  
\*Psalm 133A “Behold How Good a Thing It Is”  
  
\*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

**“Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. Except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.”—Psalm 127:1. “Remove not the ancient landmark which your fathers have set.”—Proverbs 22:28.**

**Q. 1 *What is the chief end of man?* A. Man’s chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.**

**Q. 67. *Which is the sixth commandment?* A. The sixth commandment is, Thou shalt not kill.**

**Q. 68. *What is required in the sixth commandment?* A. The sixth commandment requireth all lawful endeavors to preserve our own life, and the life of others.**

**Q. 98. *What is prayer?* A. Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God, for things agreeable to his will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgment of his mercies.**

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

I Thessalonians 5:28 “Final Blessing”

Theme: Paul et al. pronounce a blessing upon the Thessalonians.

I. The Blessing: Grace

A. Grace

1. God’s unmerited favor
2. This is what we all desperately need

B. “with you”: It is a benediction or pronouncement of blessing

1. We’ve already had one in vv. 23-24
2. There are other more common benedictions
  - a. Number 6:24-26
  - b. New Testament: Rom. 16:24; I Cor. 16:23; II Cor. 13:14; Gal. 6:18; Eph. 6:24; Phil. 4:23; Col. 2:18c; II Thess. 3:18; II Tim. 4:22; Titus 3:15c; Phile. 25; Hebrews 13:20-21, 25; I Pet. 5:14b
3. It is to be done by a minister of the gospel
4. What it is not
  - a. It is not a prayer per se, though it is similar to it
  - b. It is not an ascription of praise or a doxology
  - c. Nor is it magic, as if there is power in the minister (
5. It is a **pronouncement** of blessing

- a. Declaration of special covenant relationship of God's people
- b. Trinitarian, but Christo-centric

## II. The Bestower: The Lord Jesus Christ

### A. His name

1. LORD—Yahweh; truly God; Creator; allegiance and obedience
2. Jesus—Yeshua/Joshua; His personal name (“Salvation”)
3. Christ—Messiah (Anointed One); Zech. 9:9; Isa. 53:6

### B. His work

1. His sinless life, substitutionary death, resurrection, ascension

5. His sending of the Spirit, for our being sanctified—I Thess. 4
6. His coming again—emphasized in I Thess. 4-5

## III. The Final Word: Amen!

### Application

- A. Understand and appreciate the specialness of the benediction
- B. Does this benediction apply to you?