

Readings from Matthew chapter 15—July 18th-24th, 2021

1 Then the scribes and Pharisees who were from Jerusalem came to Jesus, saying, 2 “Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread.” 3 He answered and said to them, “Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition? 4 For God commanded, saying, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.’ 5 But you say, ‘Whoever says to his father or mother, “Whatever profit you might have received from me is a gift to God”—6 then he need not honor his father or mother.’ Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition. 7 Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: 8 ‘These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. 9 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’”

Sunday: Is tradition a good or a bad thing? Give thanks for the increasing participation in evening worship at Ottawa, Ont., RPC. **Pray** for San Diego, Calif., RPC and the family of its pastor, Noah Shepherd, who was killed last Monday.

Monday: What is an elder? Read Deuteronomy 19:12; 21:2; 22:15; 25:7; Psalm 107:32. Praise God with Westminster, Colo., RPC that He has brought new members and visitors to the congregation even though they are without a pastor at this time. **Pray** for Pacific Coast Presbytery, as it is struggling with many vacant pulpits and other difficulties; **pray** for repentance as well as strength.

Tuesday: What should be the character of an elder? Read I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9. Pray for Hetherton (Johannesburg, Mich.) RPC to befriend visitors who are in the area and thus to invite them to join in worship or to lead them to Christ. **Pray** for growth and protection of the young believers in Pakistan. **Pray** for Selma (Ala.) RPC, as it deals with the disappointment of a pastoral call by them being turned down.

Wednesday: How should we show respect to our parents? Pray for the new Bible and book studies meeting at Orlando, Fla., RPC. **Give thanks** that Grace Reformed Church, Brikama, The Gambia, has purchased property, and attendance has doubled.

Thursday: How were the Jews trying to get around their duty of showing respect to their parents? Pray for wisdom for Geneva College’s leadership as they plan for the college’s ministry of Christian education. **Pray** for Reformation Theological College in Australia, as a new semester begins. **Pray** for McKinnon (Australia) RPC.

Friday: What is the essence of hypocrisy? Thank the Lord with RP Global Missions for the Cush4Christ team in South Sudan; **pray** that the Lord would uphold them all and that He would call others to come and serve alongside them as diaconal missionaries, workers in the school, and pastor/elder trainers. **Pray** for Faughan (Northern Ireland) RPC, that the Lord would bless their gospel efforts in

their area.

Saturday: How do we determine how to worship God? Is it by our own idea or by God’s command? Read Leviticus 10:1-2; Jeremiah 7:29. Pray for an influx of new students to find and follow their calling to serve Christ in His kingdom at Geneva College. **Pray** for the service at ARPC tomorrow, that many would find Christ.

Atlanta

Reformed

Presbyterian

Church

The Lord’s Day

July 18, 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.

franksmith76@gmail.com

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 15:1-2

*The Invocation

*Psalm 106A

“O Praise the Lord! O Thank the Lord!”

Scripture Reading

Zechariah 7

*Psalm 18A
Strength”

“I Love You, Lord! You Are My

Pastoral Prayer

*Psalm 23B

“The Lord’s My Shepherd; I’ll Not Want”

Scripture Text

Revelation 2:1-7

The Sermon

“Letter to the Church in Ephesus” (Part 2)

*Prayer

*Psalm 116A “I Love the Lord Because He Heard My Supplicating Plea”

*Benediction

*Psalm 150B
Lord!”

“Praise the

** 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

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”—John 17:17.

“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”—Hebrews 9:27.

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

Q. 30. How doth the Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ? A. The Spirit applieth to us the redemption purchased by Christ, by working faith in us, and thereby uniting us to Christ in our effectual calling.

Q. 75. What is forbidden in the eighth commandment? A. The eighth commandment forbiddeth whatsoever doth or may unjustly hinder our own or our neighbor’s wealth or outward estate.

Q. 76. Which is the ninth commandment? A. The ninth commandment is, Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

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

Revelation 2:1-7 “Letter to the Church in Ephesus” (Part 2)

Theme: Christ warns the church not to lose its first love.

I. Commendation A. Deeds, toil, perseverance B. Opposition to evil

II. Condemnation

A. “But this I have against you”

B. Left your first love

1. Self-glorying

2. Closely related to self-glorying is a lack of fervent devotion

3. “first love”

a. Characteristics of this loss of your first love

(1) Coldness toward the things of God

(2) Lackadaisical attitude toward the church and her worship

d. Causes of the loss of your first love?

- (1) It is a deliberate going away from it
 - (2) Worldliness—friendship with worldly values and people
 - (3) Sensuousness
 - (4) Selfishness
 - (5) Busyness—so busy that you forget about the King
- e. Rekindle the flame: means of grace; give yourself wholly to X

III. Warning and Promise

A. Exhortation: Remember; Repent; Return; Listen

B. Warning

1. “I am coming to you”
2. “and will remove your lampstand out of its place”

C. Promise—for the one who overcomes; eternal life

Application

A. Respect the warning—we dare not think we are any better than this almost-perfect church!

B. Repent—don’t waste this opportunity

C. Remember that without love, the church is nothing