

From Matthew 7: ⁷“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. ⁹Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? ¹¹If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him! ¹²Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”

Sunday: Do we always get all that we wish for? Give thanks with Oswego, N.Y., RPC for several baptized members transitioning to communicant membership and for the public profession and baptism of Michael Abdallah. Pray for the raising up of elders and deacons at the RP church in Brikama, The Gambia. Pray for the Lord to bring into membership at Atlanta RPC at least three new families this year.

Monday: Why does God sometimes answer our prayers with a “no”? Give thanks with Fresno, Calif., RPC for God's provision of a year with their pastor, Johnathan Kruis, and his family; pray that God would continue to make their church fruitful as they all, with their elders and deacons, work together. Pray for a new meeting place for Letterkenny (Northern Ireland) RPC, as it has outgrown its present venue.

Tuesday: What should be the primary focus of that for which we pray? Pray that the Lord would be pleased to use Hope Community (Beaver Falls, Pa.) RPC as a beacon of hope for the hopeless in their community. Praise God for the significant increase in worship attendance at Anugraha (Bangalore, India) RPC. Pray for Springs Reformed Church (Colorado Springs, Colo.) which has issued a pastoral call.

Wednesday: What is Jesus teaching us here about persistent prayer? Read Luke 18:1-8. Do you pray this way? Pray for Topeka, Kan., RPC's annual vacation Bible school; pray for zeal and excitement in planning this outreach ministry. Pray that the marriages in South Sudan Community Church would reflect a biblical pattern.

Thursday: How does God show Himself to be a kind heavenly Father? Thank God with Fresno, Calif., RPC for His evident work in the hearts of prisoners in their state and county facilities; pray for Tim McCracken and others as they bring Bible teaching to them; pray for faithfulness among the believers inside, and boldness and safety as they reach out to others. Pray for the growth of Stornoway (Scotland) RPC.

Friday: How does Jesus' announcement of the “Golden Rule” in v. 12 relate to the prior verses? Please pray for sufficient financial resources to provide for a much-needed addition to Oswego, N.Y., RPC's building. Pray for additional elders to be raised up at Frankston (Australia) RPC. Pray for the young families at Stranraer (Scotland) RPC. Pray for God's blessing on those taking the church membership class at McKinnon (Australia) RPC this month.

Saturday: Do you practice the “Golden Rule”? Pray for the small mission church in the south of Pakistan; pray that they would grow in numbers, depth of insight,

and love for the Lord and one another; pray that they would find ways to have more fellowship with their RP brothers and sisters much further north of them. Pray for the Pattillos as they travel to Alabama where T.J. will be preaching tomorrow for Birmingham RPC. Pray for the service tomorrow at Atlanta RPC.

Atlanta Reformed Presbyterian Church

The Lord's Day
July 23, 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

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*The Invocation

*Psalm 24B

Scripture Reading

*Psalm 106E

Pastoral Prayer

*Psalm 115A

Scripture Text

The Sermon

*Prayer

*Psalm 135C

*Benediction

*Psalm 134A

** 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

“The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.”—Psalm 9:17.

“Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.”—Psalm 95:2.

Q. 46. What is required in the first commandment? A. The first commandment requireth us to know and acknowledge God to be the only true God, and our God; and to worship and glorify him accordingly.

Q 47. What is forbidden in the first commandment? A. The first commandment forbiddeth the denying, or not worshiping and glorifying, the true God as God, and our God; and the giving of that worship and glory to any other, which is due to him alone.

Q. 48. What are we specially taught by these words before me in the first commandment? A. These words before me in the first commandment teach us, that God, who seeth all things, taketh notice of, and is much displeased with, the sin of having any other god.

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

The law condemns making an image of God or worshipping by means of an image.

I. Worshipping by Means of an Image

A. This is an obvious and straightforward prohibition

B. Why not?

1. God is a Spirit—invisible; transcendent; infinite; incomprehensible
2. Using images inevitably detracts from His glory
3. They inevitably lead to worshipping the creation

II. Making an Image

A. Over 100 OT references

1. *pesel*—graven image or carved image (>50 times)
2. *matsevah*—image (17 times)
3. *tselem*—image (7 times + 16 in Daniel)
4. *masechah*—molten image (25 times)
5. *chammanim*—images (7 times)
6. *teraphim*—idols (7 times)
7. *neseq*—molten image (4 times)
8. *semel*—figure, idol, image (5 times)

B. Evaluating the matter

1. Everywhere condemned—therefore, clearly forbidden
2. Images and idols are necessarily connected
3. False worship inevitably results
 - a. Images debase our view of God
 - b. Images therefore inevitably cause idolatrous worship
 - c. This result is true with regard to pictures of Christ
 - (1) His divine nature cannot be pictured at all
 - (2) His glorified body cannot be pictured as it is

Application

- A. Avoid making or looking at images of God like the plague!
1. Stay away from such things

2. Especially, stay away from any visible portrayal of Jesus

B. Do look to Jesus by faith rather than by sight

1. We're broken this commandment in many ways

2. And we cannot offer our own good intentions

3. Flee to Jesus who offered the perfect worship for you