

Readings from Matthew chapter 15—August 8th-14th, 2021

29 Jesus departed from there, skirted the Sea of Galilee, and went up on the mountain and sat down there. **30** Then great multitudes came to Him, having with them the lame, blind, mute, maimed, and many others; and they laid them down at Jesus' feet, and He healed them. **31** So the multitude marveled when they saw the mute speaking, the maimed made whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing; and they glorified the God of Israel. **32** Now Jesus called His disciples to Himself and said, “I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now continued with Me three days and have nothing to eat. And I do not want to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way.” **33** Then His disciples said to Him, “Where could we get enough bread in the wilderness to fill such a great multitude?” **34** Jesus said to them, “How many loaves do you have?” And they said, “Seven, and a few little fish.” **35** So He commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground. **36** And He took the seven loaves and the fish and gave thanks, broke them and gave them to His disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitude. **37** So they all ate and were filled, and they took up seven large baskets full of the fragments that were left. **38** Now those who ate were four thousand men, besides women and children. **39** And He sent away the multitude, got into the boat, and came to the region of Magdala.

Sunday: Can Jesus heal any disease? **Give thanks** with Bloomington, Ind., RPC as they celebrate their 200th anniversary as a congregation on Oct. 10. **Pray** for Ballyclabber (Northern Ireland) RPC and its “Word on the Street” outreach this week.

Monday: Why does Jesus' healing of these diseases tell us that He is God? **Pray** for several dear members of Oswego, N.Y., RPC who are battling cancer. **Give thanks** with Frankston RPC (Australia) for the three families expecting babies. **Pray** for elders to be raised up for the RPC congregations in Australia.

Tuesday: How can these diseases illustrate spiritual realities? **Pray** that the people of Walton, N.Y., RPC would have boldness in sharing the gospel with neighbors, friends, and family, and that the peace of God would shine through them to others. **Pray** with Stranraer (Scotland) RPC for an elder election by the end of the year. **Pray** for our nation to repent and turn to Jesus. **Pray** for those in our flock needing healing.

Wednesday: In what ways does Jesus show compassion? **Give thanks to God** for the safe arrival of five (soon to be six) new covenant babies over the last several months in Russell, Ontario, RPC. **Pray** for Weer Bei radio station in South Sudan, as it faces financial shortfalls; **pray** for the gospel to go out with power via the airwaves.

Thursday: Did Jesus not know how many loaves they had? If he did know, why did He ask? **Join** with Terre Haute, Ind., RPC in **giving thanks to God** for almost two fruitful years as an organized church. **Pray** for those grieving loss of a loved one.

Friday: What does the number seven indicate? **Pray** that the Lord would raise up

laborers to go to South Sudan and help teach in Cush Christian School. **Pray** for North Edinburgh (Scotland) RPC's growth.

Saturday: How does Psalm 132:13-18 apply to Jesus? **Pray** for Denison, Kan., RPC's pastor, Caleb S. Allen, as he teaches and preaches; **rejoice** over the increasing number of children and the anticipated births of two covenant children later this year. **Pray** for the service at ARPC tomorrow, that many would attend and be blessed.

Atlanta

Reformed

Presbyterian

Church

*The Lord's Day
August 8, 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

Hebrews 4:15

*The Invocation

*Psalm 3

“O Lord, How Are My Foes Increased!”

Scripture Reading

Hebrews 11:23-40

*Psalm 35B

“Without a Cause a Net They Hid”

Pastoral Prayer

*Psalm 35C

“False Witnesses Against Me Stood”

Scripture Text

Revelation 2:8-11

The Sermon

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

*Prayer

*Psalm 70C

“Hasten, O God, to My Rescue!”

*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

“Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.”—*I Timothy 1:17*.

“Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving.”—*Colossians 4:2*.

Q. 33. What is justification? A. Justification is an act of God’s free grace, wherein he pardoneth all our sins, and accepteth us as righteous in his sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone.

Q. 78. What is forbidden in the ninth commandment? A. The ninth commandment forbiddeth whatsoever is prejudicial to truth, or injurious to our own or our neighbor’s good name.

Q. 79. Which is the tenth commandment? A. The tenth commandment is, Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor’s.

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

Revelation 2:8-11 “Letter to the Church in Smyrna” (Part 2)
Christ commands the church for its faithfulness in troublous times.

I. Encouragement

A. Knowledge of the troubles

B. “But you are rich”

II. Exhortation

A. “Don’t fear what you are about to suffer”

1. The Lord warns them in advance
2. To be persecuted by the devil is cause for rejoicing
3. Especially don’t fear, because God is using this as an instrument

B. The particular suffering

1. They had a presage/hint of the impending persecution
2. Cast into prison
3. Tribulation for ten days—a relatively short period

C. “Be faithful”

1. Faithfulness is a prime virtue; => loyalty, thru thick/thin; a chief virtue of God’s covenant people
2. “unto death”—certainly to the moment of death; also, being faithful even if confession -> death

D. “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches”

III. Promise

- A. A crown of life—symbol of eternal life: *stephanos*
- B. Not hurt by the second death—promised to the overcomers

Application

- A. Be aware that Satan is the origin of all opposition to righteousness
- B. Understand the nature of the church militant
- C. Take great comfort in the midst of trouble