



SUMMER 2023 BRIEFING

August 18, 2023

*⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.*

*⁵God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;
God will help her when morning dawns.*

*⁶The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.*

*⁷The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.*

(Psalm 46:4-6 ESV)

Hope your summer has been blessed, our summer has been blessed and interesting.

We were on the road for a month (end of May to end of June) attending denominational meetings in Atlanta and Memphis, visiting family, and taking some vacation time. After we returned, I was blessed to preach three weeks in a row at three different PCA churches in Colorado.

From July 10 to August 11, we had the privilege, challenge, and blessing of keeping our two grandsons three to four days a week. (We weren't expecting it, but their parents' job situations changed.) Now they are back in school (5th and 4th grade) and we miss them.

Ministry-wise, I've been busy with some presbytery work and reading. Part of my reading has been in Augustine's "City of God." Several years ago, I read through "City of God" and now I'm digging through it for some helpful insight regarding the contrast of the city of man and the city of God in our day. In scripture, like Psalm 46 above, the City of God is a metaphor for the people of God and the earthly city refers to those who follow the ruler of this world and whose names are not written in the Book of Life.

Here's a sample from Augustine:

*"In one city love of God has been given first place, in the other, love of self. (Bk XIV, 13)
... the earthly city glories in self, the Heavenly City glories in the Lord. The former looks for glory from men, the latter finds its highest glory in God ... The earthly lifts up its head in its own glory, the Heavenly City says to its God: 'My glory; you lift up my head.'" (Bk XIV, 28)*

For the next few weeks, I've got four Legislative Interim Committee meetings at the Capitol on my calendar for the remainder of August and I'm reaching out to individual legislators for one-

on-one meetings. Our next presbytery meeting is October 5 and there's a lot to be done in preparation.

Regarding prayer needs, I have three main requests (the first two are especially hard for me and very important, so I list them first).

Please pray for:

- 1) Determination to diligently work at support raising. I don't like support raising and I don't spend enough time working at it because I'd rather do other things. There is definitely a need to increase support and I need the Lord's help – please pray.
- 2) Discipline and courage to write. For many years I've had a strong desire to write (articles, books, essays, etc.), but I need to make time to do it and I need to work through my hesitation and lack of confidence. Pray God will enable me to be productive in this area.
- 3) Opportunities to meet individually with legislators and staffers, and for God's blessing on my presence at the Capitol for Interim Committee Meetings.

Praise God for His goodness!



Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, friendship, and support!

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