

# **First Baptist Church – Odessa**

Pastor Byron McWilliams

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **“The Gospel and Religious Freedom”**

**“Countdown America: 58 Days of Prayer & Fasting” – Pt. 5**

Genesis 1:27 and Selected

### **The Gospel and Religious Freedom...**

#### **I. Recognizes that this is my Father’s world!**

*“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”* Genesis 1:27

*“The earth is the LORD’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.”* Psalm 24:1

**Religious freedom is a right granted by God to every individual at creation!**

#### **II. Understands that God establishes all governing authorities in His world!**

*“Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.”* Romans 13:1

**My religious freedom stands above every earthly authority in this world!**

### **III. Demands that I exercise my religious freedom in His world!**

*"But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, 'Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life.' And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach." Acts 5:19-21*

*"Jesus said to them, 'Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.'" Mark 12:17*

**Religious freedom does not require me to surrender to the government that which does not belong to it!**

### **IV. Accepts that I will be persecuted when I exercise my religious freedom in His world!**

*"We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us.' But Peter and the apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than men.'" Acts 5:29*

*"...and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name." Acts 5:40-41*

**Religious freedom is so precious that I will joyfully endure persecution should it be demanded!**

### **V. Demands that I lead with the Gospel because I am not of this world!**

*"And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus." Acts 5:42*

**Religious freedom triumphs when the power of the Gospel intersects with a culture in chaos!**