

First Baptist Church – Odessa

Pastor Byron McWilliams

Date: _____

“The Pursuit of God”

“iChurch – Doing Church Intentionally – Pt. 2

Matthew 22:34-40 & Selected

**A healthy New Testament church is relentless in its pursuit of
the God of the Bible!**

The Pursuit of God...

I. Is commanded in Scripture.

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” Vs. 36

II. Demands clear identification of the one true God.

“And He said, ‘You shall love the Lord your God....’” Vs. 37a

“And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.” John 17:3

III. Must be the all-consuming passion of the Church.

“And He said, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’” Vs. 37

“As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?” Psalm 42:1-2

“We love because He first loved us.” 1 John 4:19

*“You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.”
Jeremiah 29:13*

IV. Stands in opposition to the pursuit of this world.

“And He said, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’” Vs. 37

“Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!” Psalm 34:8

“For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica.” 2 Timothy 4:10a

Paul says, *“I want to know Christ...”* Philippians 3:10 NIV

Moses says, *“Please show me your glory.”* Exodus 33:18

David says, *“Delight yourself in the LORD, and He will give you the desires of your heart.”* Psalm 37:4

V. Gladly endures persecution along the way.

“And He said, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” Vs. 37-39

“Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.” 2 Timothy 3:12

VI. Promises the greatest rewards are yet to come!

“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in Heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” Matthew 5:11-12

May this be said of us:

“They desire God above all else!”