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❖SERMON NOTES❖

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Sunday, May 24, 2015

**“RELIGIOUS FREEDOM”**

(Matthew 22:15-22)

On a Memorial Day weekend we remember those who serve our nation and who have given their lives to preserve and protect our freedoms. Today we explore our religious freedoms and our responsibilities to government and to God.

*“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. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment” (Romans 13:1-2, ESV).*

*“Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience” (Romans 13:5, ESV).*

*“I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity” (1 Timothy 2:1-2, NLT).*

*“We must obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29, ESV).*

*“Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you” (1 John 3:13, ESV).*

*“Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” (Romans 12:17-21, ESV)*

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“So our debate about religious liberty should include a conversation about **freeing** religions and religious people from prejudices that they needn't cling to and **can jettison**, much as they've jettisoned other aspects of their faith's history, rightly **bowing to the enlightenments** of modernity.” (Frank Bruni)

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

*“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for*

*the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you” (1 Peter 4:12-14, ESV).*

*“Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you” (1 John 3:13, ESV).*

*“If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me” (John 15:18-21, ESV).*

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