

# THE SENDING

JOHN 20:21

## Introduction:

- Over the last ten years in America, Christians have seen loss after loss of religious freedoms we once had the luxury of enjoying for over 200 years.
- Where do we go from here? How do we live biblically in a culture turning further and further away from God?
- First century believers knew what it was like to experience the loss of religious liberties. This morning we are going to find hope and direction for the days ahead.

## 1. Religious Liberty \_\_\_\_\_ the Norm.

*And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem... (Acts 8:1a)*

- Predicted by Jesus: John 15:18-22; John 16:1-3
- Reaffirmed by Paul: II Timothy 3:12
- Experienced by the Early Church: Acts 8:1-4

## 2. Persecution Most Often \_\_\_\_\_ the Gospel.

*And they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria... Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word (v. 4).*

## 3. The Church's Focus Must Always \_\_\_\_\_.

*Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word (v. 4).*

- Make Jesus the \_\_\_\_\_.

*Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ (v. 5).*

- Display the \_\_\_\_\_ in Your Life.

*And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did (v. 6).*

- Practice the Presence of \_\_\_\_\_.

*So there was much joy in that city (v. 8).*