

February 6, 2021

*Whoever pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor. Proverbs 21:21 NIV*

Life. Prosperity. Honor. Who would not want to sign up for that? Here is the formula! A perfect recipe for happiness found in the Word of God, as certain as the mathematical sum of  $1+1=2$ . Jesus echoed similar words in Matthew 6:33. *But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well.* “All these things” being what we eat, drink and wear (see Matthew 6: 25-32).

So, how does one go about *pursuing* righteousness and love?

Paul references the Psalms 14 and 53 when he wrote to the Romans and said “*None is righteous, no not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God*” Romans 3:11 NIV.

Here is our first clue. No one is righteous because no one is seeking God. God is our source of righteousness, and this goes right along with the gospel message that it is Christ’s righteousness that saves us, and not our own. To pursue righteousness, then, means to pursue God.

Now to the second pursuit – the pursuit of love. What is love? 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 gives us a great description of love, but it is much simpler than that. We find in John’s first letter that God, Himself, is love. *Whoever does not love does not know God, because **God is love.*** 1 John 4:8 NIV

To pursue both righteousness and love is to pursue God. This is good news, because we are assured that when one pursues God, one is never turned away. “....*Whoever comes to me, I will never drive away.*” John 6:37

How then, does one pursue God?

Here are four suggestions on how you can pursue God.

1. **Seek His Presence.** It’s a time investment, but it all does begin here. Spend time with Him in meditation, prayer, and His word. Offer Him your heart and open up your mind and prepare for an amazing ride! Then, throughout the day, acknowledge His presence with you. Jesus does, after all, promise to be with us at all times and so it is important to recognize the reality of His Powerful Presence.
2. **Invite Wisdom.** God has specifically instructed us to ask for wisdom, and so as you begin your day with Him, ask for it! Continue to ask for it throughout the day as you are faced with choices and decisions that affect not only you, but those around you.
3. **Be generous.** This comes out of our pursuit of righteousness and love, and does not only apply to financial generosity, but also matters of forgiveness and the deferring of judgment. Being quick to anger and quick to judge are signs that the pursuit of righteousness and love have been sidetracked with our personal agendas.
4. **Never give up.** God is sure and certain. He will never say “well, you missed the last three mornings with me, I don’t have time for you now!” Keep on coming to Jesus. Keep on seeking His presence, inviting His wisdom and asking Him to turn a selfish wicked heart into one of generous understanding and love.