

Proverb 21:21

*He who follows righteousness and mercy
Finds life, righteousness and honor.*

1. This “righteousness” is *Jesus Christ*. He is to God’s people “righteousness from God” (1 Corinthians 1:30). God tells them to call Jesus Christ “Jehovah Our Righteousness” (Jeremiah 23:6).
 2. This “mercy” is *Jesus Christ*. He is “the mercy promised to our fathers ... [in] His holy covenant” (Luke 1:72). When God’s people pray “Show us Your mercy, LORD” (Psalm 85:7), they express their desire to see Christ. When they say “I have trusted in Your mercy” (Psalm 13:5), they declare their faith in Christ.
 3. “He who follows righteousness and mercy” is he who *pursues* Jesus Christ – for this is the meaning of the Hebrew verb. He who follows Jesus Christ does not merely tag along behind Him, as do many pretending Christians.
 4. He who pursues Jesus Christ “finds *life, righteousness and honor*”.
 - i. This “life” is *Jesus Christ*. He tells those who “follow Me” that “I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish” (John 10:27f). The Holy Spirit says, “Jesus Christ ... is the true God and eternal life” (1 John 5:20). They who have found this life speak of Him as “Christ who is our life” (Colossians 3:4).
 - ii. This “righteousness” is *Jesus Christ*. To those who find Him, His wrought righteousness is imputed to them (Romans ch.4; Philippians 3:9), His righteous nature is implanted in them (2 Peter 1:4), and they “become the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Corinthians 5:21).
 - iii. This “honor” is *glory*, and this glory is *Jesus Christ*. (The Hebrew word here translated *honor* means “glory”, which is more often its translation.) In Christ is fulfilled the prophecy that “the LORD will be to you ... your God your glory” (Isaiah 60:19). In Christ is fulfilled Jehovah’s promise to His church that “I will be the glory in her midst” (Zechariah 2:5). Saints confess to God that Christ is “the glory of Your people Israel” (Luke 2:32).
- This proverb promises that all who pursue Christ will find Christ, and all who find Christ discover in Him more than they sought.
- DEP