

The mind of the intelligent seeks knowledge, But the mouth of fools feeds on folly.

Proverbs 15:14

Store In My Heart Psalms 139:14

I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well.

What is your attitude regarding God? The Psalmist recognizes Him as Creator and offers sincere gratitude for what He has done. In this passage we also see that the Psalmist recognizes that his very existence is sufficient proof of the handy work of God.

The creation around and within us should cause us to praise God for His great and mighty power. God not only provides the air, food, and water we require; He has given us the means to process those things so that we may live.

We ought to express our thankfulness to Him each day as we rise from sleep and each night as we lay down to rest. Everything we are comes from God and our life is nothing without Him. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!



Following After Righteousness and Mercy

David A. Cox

“He who follows righteousness and mercy finds life, righteousness, and honor.”

Proverbs 21:21

Many believe that being right is more important than mercy. While others say that mercy far outweighs being right. The wise man, Solomon, declares that true wisdom will balance these two things together. It will be seen in striving to do right at all times and in every situation but just as eager to extend mercy to those who are hurting and need it. Let us consider how to follow or pursue righteousness and mercy.

Follow After Righteousness

To follow righteousness means that we are earnestly seeking after Christ. We pursue Christ over the things of life. Our focus in every situation in life is upon what Christ would do or how we can honor Christ by what we do. In other words, we follow His righteousness and live the way God desires us to live. We understand the life we are living is a life that Christ is living through (**Galatians 2:20**). Therefore, we follow His plan, His way, and His word. We pattern our footsteps by the example Christ showed us in His life.

Follow After Mercy

To follow after mercy is to be sympathetic, tender, responsive, and compassionate. Jesus taught us to *“be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful”* (**Luke 6:36**). We see God, our Father, as sympathetic, tender, responsive, and

compassionate. As we follow or pursue mercy, we should let the reflection of God's compassion pour out from our hearts and action toward others. Mercy will cause us to respond to situations in life differently than a heart with mercy absent. The heart of compassion and mercy will cause us to be kind, forgiving, and loving.

Righteousness and Mercy Finds Life, Righteousness, and Honor

Interestingly, righteousness and mercy will find the blessings that God has promised. It is more than just being right. Neither is it just having mercy. It is having both righteousness and mercy. Jesus tried to teach the Jews in His day about this fact. The Pharisees were very exacting and strict with their adherence to the Law. However, they fail in mercy.

An example of Jesus teaching them is in **Luke 18**. The Pharisee and the tax collector prayed at the temple. The Pharisee prayed and extolled all the virtues of his life but failed to be moved by the desperation of the guilt the tax collector was feeling. Jesus tells us the tax collector, *"standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God be merciful to me a sinner!'"* (**Luke 18:13**). Jesus says the tax collector went to his house justified, not the Pharisee. The Pharisee failed to see his need for mercy and failed to show any mercy too. Therefore, he would not find life, righteousness, and honor.

Let each one of us follow righteousness and mercy. Let us look to Christ and surrender our hearts and ways entirely to Him. Let Christ rule and reign over our hearts, then God will grant us life and honor.

(I've been reading in Genesis lately and three names came to mind as I considered the message of this article: Enoch, Moses and Abraham. These men stand as examples in righteousness. In Abraham's story we see his mercy in several events also. None of them were perfect, yet they were righteous in God's eyes. May we be righteous as well. DLH)

Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

Church of Christ

1512 Tanner Street
Malvern, AR 72104

(501) 332-8806

preacher@tannerst.com

tannerst.com

FB @TannerStCoC

For Our Information

Jack Brooks is getting adjusted to some medication changes.

JoBeth Henderson has chemo treatments on Tuesdays.

Paula Laubach is scheduled for a CT scan Monday. They are looking for kidney issues. Her grandniece, Lexi, delivered a month early due to high blood pressure. The baby is in NICU with issues breathing on her own.

Sue Soliday has a doctor appointment in March.

Tommy Robinson is still waiting for his radiation treatment.

Sunday Evening - **Isaiah 45** Wednesday - **Revelation 11:7**

Are you reading your Bible regularly?

The
CHURCH OF CHRIST
MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study