1. (v.1-3) What we pursue we usually get. The goal of those who pursue the Lord is righteousness.

2. (v.4-8) Those who pursue God embrace His Word and ways while shrinking from those of man’s. They see the reality of the godly pursuit, which is permanent, versus the earthly pursuit which is temporary.

3. (v.9-11) Those who pursue God may not immediately be freed from the enslavement of earthly circumstances, but they have the assurance of God – which is a future as sure as if it already happened in the past – that they will be. They know to Whom they actually belong.

4. (v.12-16) The pursuit of God is not strictly limited to the things and events we see here on earth; they have corresponding effects and connections to things in the heavenly realm as well. This is why they replace their fear of men with a fear of the Lord.

5. (v.17-20) Those who pursue God don’t have to learn things the hard way by God’s discipline.

6. (v.21-23) Those who pursue God will not continue forever in being oppressed by the people and institutions of this present world.