

"And Jesus answered and said, 'Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.'" Mark 10:29-30 KJV



This is the original “health and wealth” doctrine of our Lord Christ. When you have forsaken all for the love of Jesus Christ and His Gospel, all will be returned to you “*an hundredfold, now, in this time.*” Keep in mind that the Giver of such gifts is also the Searcher of “*the thoughts and intents*” of men’s hearts, so if you do it for some pretense of love, He will know. Also he promised that it would come “*with persecutions.*” You may fool men into believing that you love God, but you cannot hide your heart from God! We go to great lengths to achieve acceptance from men and become quite distressed when, for no good reason we can discern, we are rejected by them. To the contrary, we generally are quite unconcerned by the displeasure of our final and ultimate Judge, going so far as to ignore or deny His sovereign omnipotence! “*In ALL thy ways ACKNOWLEDGE Him and He shall direct thy paths.*” It is no small wonder that “*God is angry with the wicked every day.*” Wickedness is something as small as forgetting to be thankful for the little things. “*In EVERYTHING give thanks. And we know that ALL things (even the bad) work together FOR GOOD to them that LOVE GOD, to them who are the called according to HIS PURPOSE.*” What is that purpose? “*To be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.*” God made man “*in His own image*” which man perverted when he sinned! God simply desires to restore us to that image. If we walk the path of faithful obedience and love of God, provision will be there for the taking and need will vanish! “*Delight thyself also in the LORD and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart.*” Taking God’s munificent provision; the air you breathe; the sun in your day; or the stars in your night; for granted, is the essence of unthankfulness. What gladdens a lover’s heart? What gladdens your heart the most? If it isn’t God, then you do not LOVE God! “*For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.*” Believers are guilty of just such wickedness without realizing it when they go through a day and come home frustrated and angry with men when they should be thanking God for another day of needs supplied. “*Having food and raiment, therewith be content. Godliness with contentment is great gain.*” The rain falls on the just and the unjust. The difference is the heart attitude of the recipients. The next time you hear some “faith merchant” hawking faith like a commodity, turn your heart in love and thankfulness to God for His care and provision in the “*now in this time*” and the eternal Life He has given you! If clothed and fed, you have enough evidence that God cares for you. If the Lord is your Shepherd, you “*shall not want.*”

If you love God with all your heart,
It matters not what men impart,
God has no debt but that assumed,
And with His death He, Life, perfumed. ~CGP

Righteousness for believers is an attitude, best described as “*thankful.*” What have you taken for granted today?

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." 2 Timothy 3:1-5 KJV