

Hello! This is Dorothy -

Good morning to you! I am turning this morning in my Bible to **Romans chapter 13**. if you have a Bible to hand, please lift it and turn with me to this amazing little passage. It starts in **verse 11**, and we will read right on through **verse 14**.

11 And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.

13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.

It was several years ago that a friend of ours told the story of his little boy, who, when he had been left alone in the house, accidentally broke the most precious vase that his mother had. It was cut glass and sat in the middle of the dining room table. When she came back from her neighbor's house, the mother was surprised that her son was not

around, but all she could see was a big pile of broken glass! She was most upset. Then suddenly, she noticed there was a hand-written note from her little lad, which said - *Mummy - While you were out, I had an accident. Because of this, I am very sorry. Therefore, I have done without supper and I have put myself to bed!* What could a mother say? He had been willing to accept what he did and to rectify it as best he knew. This little fellow saw that his responsibility had been that, as in this very Scripture, when we put on Christ, we are willing to understand the things that happen in our life, that we have the responsibility to make right those things that we are responsible for. It is really understanding the salvation that we have. It is understanding that that responsibility is ours.

This portion talks about walking honestly. That means not walking carelessly with disregard to others. When people are rioting and drunken, they are not even aware what is happening to others. It is a behavior that is something which can only be met by turning to our Lord Jesus Christ to be the life that we cannot be ourselves. Some of us have tried to be and to do, and we wondered what went wrong. We did not understand that the principle of the exchanged life of our Lord Jesus Christ could alone meet that standard. When I came into Christ, it was no longer me trying to keep up a standard; it was Him being the life and bringing that standard, bringing that conscience to the situation; bringing that willingness to make right those things

which I had been responsible for. This really alone deals with the huge internal conflict and defeat that some of us face, because we are not willing to understand this life of faith.

Hudson Taylor, who was a well-known and very precious man, wrote two huge volumes in which, really, the chapter, *The Exchanged Life*, stands out and is clearly known by many people around the world. He emphasized this fact that I cannot be what I should be in my own attempt to live the Christian life because only Christ's life can be what I should be. Therefore, the principle of exchanging His life alone can make me aware that the night is nearly gone, the day is very much on us, the coming of the Lord is very near, and that I should be in the armor of light. All these things are only possible when I say, . . . **not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.**

Are you willing to do this? Are you willing to say, Yes, Lord, that is the Christian life I want. Not me being the Christian, but You being Christ in me, the hope of glory, in this present age. Thank You, Lord, for what you are going to do, as I make myself available to You for this to happen.

In Jesus' Name. Amen.