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LAD389

Prayer Meeting Address by Mr.J.Delves at Ebenezer, Clapham on
Saturday evening 9.10.54

Hymn 148

Reading: Romans 13

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The Apostle brings before those to whom he writes matters of importance, many timely directions as here in this chapter, where he tells us what the fulfilling of the law is, and that it consists of loving one another. "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.... Love worketh no ill to his neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law". He also writes of our duty to those in authority over us, as citizens of our country in the responsibilities that belong to us relating to our rulers and to the laws of the land, and why "It is high time to awake out of sleep", because these are dark days in which we live, "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". There are many directions to believers as to their spirit and walk, conduct and deportment before God, the world, the church and His people. How we need grace day by day because of the propensities to evil within us, His keeping, upholding grace to walk uprightly and according to the precepts of the Gospel though not depending upon them for the salvation of our souls. This walk is being separate from the world. His people are to put on the Lord Jesus Christ, not to walk in the ways of the wicked, "in rioting and drunkenness", and so on, but are to walk uprightly. "Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof." That is, we are to deny ourselves for His sake, put our trust in Him, realising that all our concerns are in our Father's hand and that He will go before and provide for His people and cause His goodness to pass before them in the way.

There is a putting on of the Lord Jesus Christ - and one thing concerned in this is a knowledge of Him. We cannot put Him on unless we have a knowledge of Him and that knowledge must be a right knowledge. It is not an assumed knowledge but a knowledge of Him in all that He is, in so far as He is revealed to us. How wonderful it

is to get a sight of Him and to have brought into our heart an understanding in Him that is true; an understanding, not an opinion, that is a very different thing; the world have their opinions in regard to religion, we can have an opinion without any understanding; but the great thing is to have an understanding enlightened by the Spirit of God of the glorious mystery of the Person of Christ. As that revelation is given then the heart will be turned to Him, the affections fixed upon Him. He becomes all and in all. It brings us to that place "where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcisor nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free; but Christ is all, and in all."

There is something beside this when putting Him on and that is confidence in Him. We shall never put Him on in the exercise of faith unless we have this confidence and that can be a very special point felt in your soul sometimes for a few minutes. It is very confirming and brings a wonderful rest. It is sweet to be coming up from the wilderness leaning upon your beloved, to have your affections set on things above and not on things on the earth, to feel Him to be your beloved, to be enabled to commit all things to Him as your beloved, to be enabled to cast your burden on Him as your beloved, and to be able to say, "My beloved is mine and I am His". O the rest it brings! "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee".

Another thing involved in putting Him on is obedience to Him, that is to His Word and laws, commandments and ordinances. Evidently the putting Him on here is by owning Him, denying ourselves and taking up the cross and following Him as we were singing; to render obedience to His Word and laws; to take up the cross and despise the shame; to follow Him in faith and love; to have Him before our eye; to have an eye that is single in all that we do, with a desire for His honour and glory and the furtherance of the Gospel; He is worthy. "Them that honour Me I will honour". Here is the injunction, not to be taken lightly, not to be turned away

from. Putting on the Lord Jesus Christ will entail suffering for His sake; putting Him on may mean a heavy path, a burdensome cross, a trial of faith; but all is in the Lord's blessed hands. Moreover He is a prayer-answering Jesus and is able to do for His dear people all they need. Mountains often rise before us; but mountains are nothing to Him; He is above them all. O may He continually give us this grace, this faith, in this respect, although there is a putting Him on once in His ordinances. May we have grace to put Him on in the sense of walking before Him, honouring Him and rendering gracious obedience to His Word and ways. Amen

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