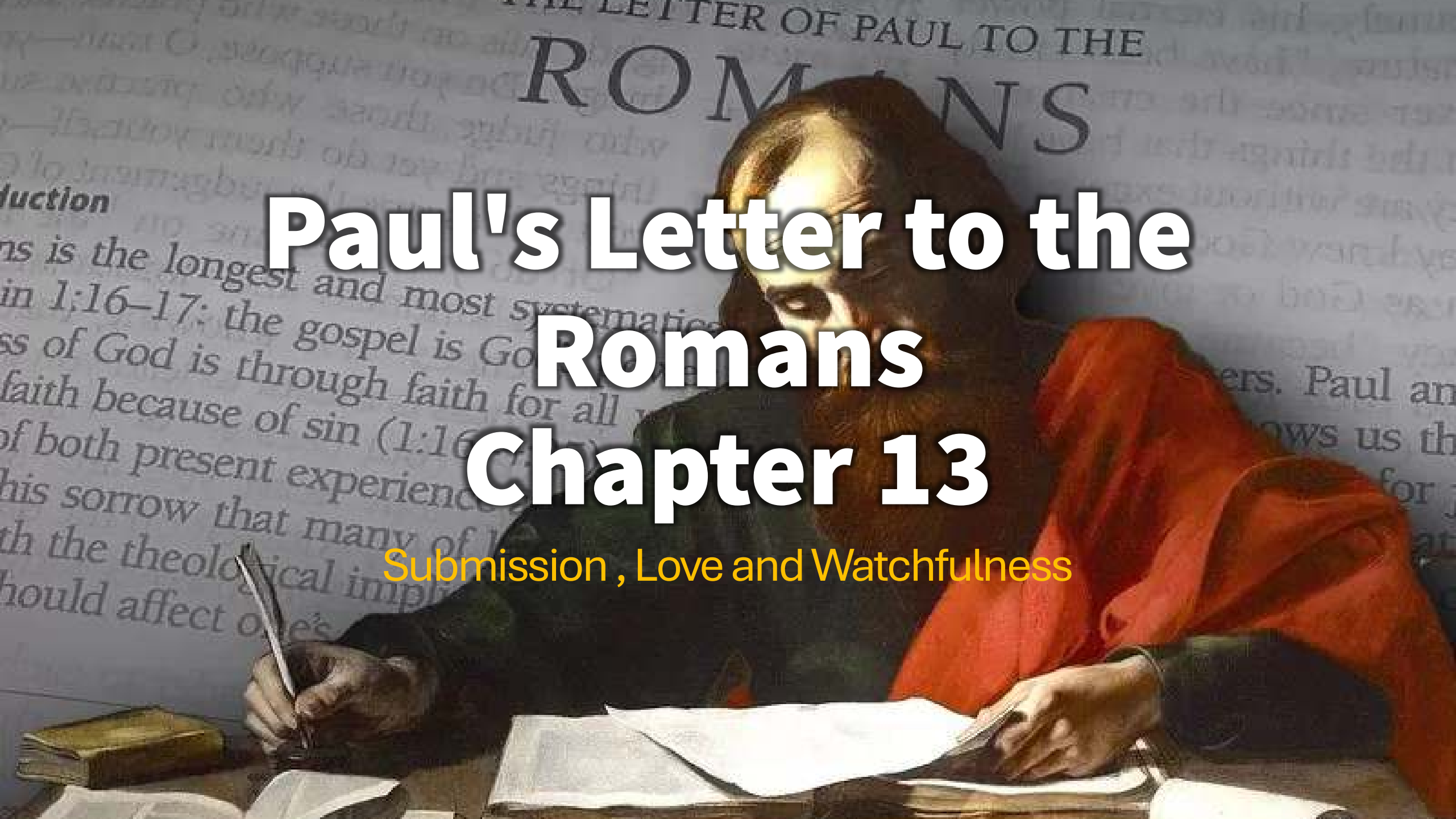




Paul's Letter to the Romans Chapter 13

Submission, Love and Watchfulness

Summary of Romans ch 13

1. Submission to Authorities (Verses 1–7)

- “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers...” (v.1)
 - Military Service is not advocated, Taxes are to be paid

2. The Royal Law of Love (Verses 8–10)

- “Owe no man any thing, but to love one another...” (v.8)
 - Love Fulfills the Law – Debts and Integrity to others

3. Living in the Light – Wakefulness and Readiness (Verses 11–14)

- “Now it is high time to awake out of sleep...” (v.11)
 - Urgency, Putting on Christ, Readiness in the truth

1. Submission to Authorities (**As a Jew**)

“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers...” (v.1)

- To the Jewish believer this was a **problem**...
 - To a Jew to submit to **Gentile rule** disobeyed the covenant!
 - *thou may not set a stranger over thee, which is not thy brother.* Deut 17:15
- The Jews saw themselves as the preeminent nation
 - Deu 32:9 But the LORD's portion is his people, Jacob his allotted heritage. (Sons of God = bene elohim or heavenly beings over nations)
 - The angels were overseers of the nations, *God* was overseer of Israel
- This was one reason most Jews resisted the Roman government and the disciples thought the messiah would purge foreign rule
 - Think Maccabean Revolt (167–164 BC), Zealots, eventual purge in AD70

1. Submission to Authorities (Gentile)

“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers...” (v.1)

- To the Gentile believer this was also a problem...liberty in Christ
 - 1 Cor 5:1 “It is reported that there is sexual immorality among you
 - Gal 5:13: “do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh...”
- Paul was concerned for the believer’s reputation in a hostile world.
 - If Christians were seen as agitators, it would discredit the gospel.
 - Apostles reinforced this in 1 Peter 2:13–17

1. Submission to Authorities (Believers)

Practical Submission w/ Spiritual Separation

- **Philippians 3:20** – *“Our citizenship is in heaven...”*
- Obedience to human rulers is framed not as loyalty to them, but as **recognition of God’s providential order**.
 - Politically **non-aligned** and Morally and spiritually **separate** from the world
 - **Ambassadors for Christ** in a foreign land (2 Corinthians 5:20)
 - We are not Nationalist (Jew) nor are we Universalist (Gentile)
- **Christadelphian Principle:**
 - We do not vote, run for public office, or serve in the military—not out of rebellion, but because our **loyalty is to a higher authority**.
- **Taxes and Obedience:** Paying taxes and showing respect to authorities is part of a believer’s **peaceable conduct** in the world (v.6-7). This does not indicate approval of the government’s morality but is a recognition of order and structure allowed by God.

The Exception to the Rule? (verses 1-7)

- There is however the exception – when it contravenes Gods laws
 - Act 4:18-20 “Whether it is right before God to obey you rather than God, you decide, for it is impossible for us not to speak about what we have seen and heard.”
 - Acts 5:29 “We must obey God rather than men.”
 - When human authority commands disobedience to God, the believer must obey God.
- God's Providence in Government:
 - Human governments exist by God's permission (Romans 9:17)

Not rewarded for doing Evil

Romans 13:3 For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad.

- **Generally speaking**—governments pursue evil people, not good people.
- The principle here is we are to do right, even in the wrong circumstances.
 - 1 Pe 3:16-17 having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.
- So to Promote a **life of quiet godliness** (1 Tim. 2:1–2).
 - John Carter: Paul gives two reasons for obedience to the authorities. First, resistance of the power would be withstanding God's ordinance (verse 2); second, they that withstand will receive judgement, possibly from the power resisted, but certainly, from God, whose law is disregarded (verse 4).

2. Royal Law of Love (Verses 8–10)

- Our EXTERNAL obligations transition to ETERNAL obligations
 - In 13:1–7, our external responsibilities to human authorities.
 - In 13:8–10, he transitions to our internal and eternal obligation to others — the ongoing “debt” of love.
- The Royal Law of Love (Verses 8–10)
 - “Owe no man any thing, but to love one another...” (v.8)
- Love is the debt that is always owing...
 - The only thing you should owe – is the debt of love – always repay it
 - “Love is not an undirected impulse but a joyful compliance with Gods will – in which obedience the doer becomes like God” J Carter

2. **Royal** Law of Love (Origin)

- Where is the first mention of 'Love' in the Bible?
 - The first mention of "love" is found in Genesis 22:2: "Then He said, 'Take now your son, your only son Isaac, **whom you love**, and go to the land of Moriah, and **offer him there as a burnt offering** on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.'" (NKJV)
 - Connects love with sacrifice, foreshadows the love of God in giving His Son.
 - It's the Hebrew word "ahav" (אהב), meaning affection, devotion, or strong emotional attachment.
- Where is the first instance of love in the law?
 - Exo 20:6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.
 - Deuteronomy 6:5 "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might." *Jesus himself cites this as the greatest commandment (Matthew 22:37–38).*

The Royal Law of Love (Paul's Point)

- Love for others *is* the law in action - sums up all commandments
 - Rom 13:8-10: Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor;
 - *therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.* If we loved, we would not commit wrong.
- James gives this law the title “Royal Law of Love”
 - Jas 2:8 If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well.

3: Living in Light: **Wakeful & Ready** (vs 11)

- Living in the Light – Wakefulness and Readiness (Verses 11–14)
 - “Now it is high time to awake out of sleep...” (v.11)
 - Urgency, Putting on Christ, Readiness in the truth
- Paul recalls the role of the Watchman at the Tower
 - We know the time – and that time is NOW to wake
 - What is Paul referring to? AD70, Christ’s return and the Future Kingdom?

The approaching return of Christ

- “*Our salvation is nearer than when we believed*” (Rom 13:11).
 - This is **not salvation** (when we believed) but **future redemption** at Christ’s return (Rom 8:23).
 - For Paul, the “*day*” is the **Day of the Lord** — the final coming of God’s kingdom.
 - **1Pe 4:7** But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

Point: Fall of Jerusalem – Rise of Palestine

- Jewish Revolts (AD66-70) led **Titus** to besiege/destroy Jerusalem
 - City Burned, Temple Destroyed, Jewish Political Independence over...
- The Final Blow: (AD132-135) Hadrian crushed another revolt
 - Hundreds of Thousands of Jews Killed, banned from entering city
 - Jerusalem renamed **Aelia Capitolina** (Hadrians City, ded. To Jupiter)
 - Province was renamed **Syria Palaestina** (after ancient Philistines)
 - These actions were the most deliberate acts of erasing Jewish national Identity and the dispersion akin to genocide
- After this the Jewish nation and Jews were dispersed and persecuted
- Common Misunderstanding in today's media/world
 - UN Genocide Convention: “Acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group”

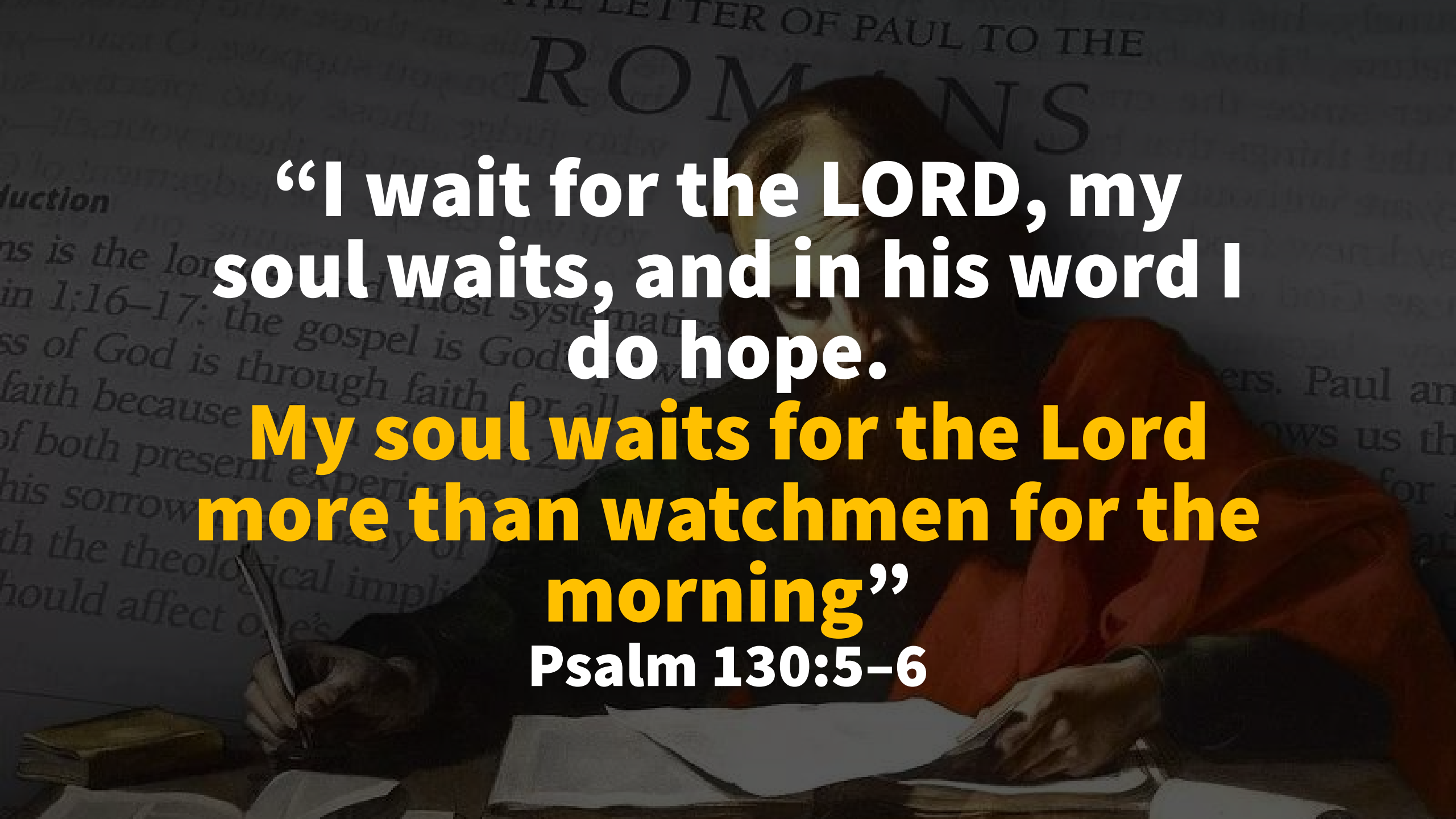
The Old Testament

“Watchman”

- Paul is recalling a role inspired by God
 - Ezekiel 3:17 “Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from My mouth, you shall give them warning from Me.” *warn of coming danger. If people heed the warning, they’re safe.*
 - Ezekiel 33:6 “But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet... I will require his blood at the watchman's hand.” *If the watchman is silent, he's responsible for what happens.*
- The watchman’s job:
 - The role was both prophetic and moral — calling people to repentance, readiness, and righteousness.
- Paul is calling on us to be a watchman – even to ourselves!

Living in Light: **Active and Working**

- The Alarm is sounded! We must get to work as the time is short
- 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.**
- But **the night watch** was the most difficult and dangerous:
- Man sleeps – but the believer must be awake - sober
 - Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and **make not provision for the flesh**, to fulfil the lusts thereof. (Rom 13:12-14)



**“I wait for the LORD, my
soul waits, and in his word I
do hope.**

**My soul waits for the Lord
more than watchmen for the
morning”**

Psalm 130:5–6