

“THE ARMOR OF GOD” (Part 6)
“...take the helmet of salvation” Eph. 6:17a

INTRO: We are at war – not with God (He’s on our side – no longer enemies), others, but with Satan and his demons. They hate the Jesus in us (Jn. 15:18-20). Satan is deceitful, powerful, and relentless. He knows our weaknesses and uses them against us. To stand in the battle we must, as Paul says, depend on His power (v. 10) and dress in His armor (v. 11-put on Jesus).

REVIEW: *Having* on the *belt* of commitment to know and live God’s truth, *breastplate* of righteous by exchanging our sinfulness for His perfect righteousness and practicing a holy lifestyle, *shoes* of peace that gives us confidence that God is on our side. We take up the next three pieces when the battle rages. Next *Taking* up the *shield* of faith believing and trusting in who God is and all God says. Next,

TODAY: v. 17a “take the helmet of salvation” Question: “Why wear a helmet?” protect brain! Stats ... wear a helmet? Ex. Cyclists, construction workers wear helmets. Do I? Jesus (Rev. 1:16; 2:12).

I. DESCRIPTION OF THE HELMET – PIC

- A. Construction – Roman helmets of two types: leather or solid molded cast iron or bronze. Lined with sponge or felt. Often it included a crest (plume) of horsehair of different colors designating different ranks.
- B. Protection of head and neck from the enemies’ arrows or heavy two-sided swords from mounted horses, called “*rhomphaia*” some 3’ to 4’ long, weigh some 3 lbs (PIC).

II. DEFINITION OF HELMET OF “SALVATION”

- A. NOT referring to initial salvation (writing to believers).
- B. Salvation exists in three tenses: PAST “*I have been saved*” (Justification) – Rom. 5:1. PRESENT “*I am being saved*” (Sanctification) – Rom. 5:10. FUTURE “*I will be saved*” (Glorification) – Rev. 21:4; 1 Jn. 3:2. We have been freed from sin’s *penalty*, being freed from sin’s *power* and one day from sin’s *presence* – that’s our eternal hope. We are secure in Christ (1 Jn. 5:13; Rom. 8:38-39).
- C. Primarily, the helmet is a metaphor for the last tense – the ultimate hope and assurance of final salvation (Isa. 59:17; Rom. 8:18, 22-25; Gal. 5:5; Rom. 5:2a; 1 Pet. 1:3-5; 1 Thess. 5:8-10). *The helmet of salvation is the confident assurance that because of Christ the final victory is ours – we have the hope of glory (Col. 1:27).* The helmet is about the assurance of salvation and the confidence it brings. Satan’s strategy is to deceive our mind, as he did Eve (Gen. 3:1-7; 2 Cor. 11:3; 2 Tim. 2:25-26).

III. APPLICATION OF THE HELMET – How does hope protect us? Satan’s broadsword has two main sides of attack: DOUBT that leads to DISCOURAGEMENT (maybe add fear).

- A. DOUBT was Satan’s first work (Gen. 3:1-6). He deceives and lies to us to distrust God’s character and conduct. It worked then and it still does. Recently, did lesson on doubt . . . He wants us to doubt God’s love, wisdom, forgiveness, . . . our salvation is secure (Jn. 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Ph. 1:6, Jude 1, 24). If doubt wins, then
- B. DISCOURAGEMENT – “What’s the use? Why keep trying?” arises as doubts continue and we give in to despair and defeat. EXAMPLES? Elijah (1 Ki. 19:1-18; Eph. 3:13; Gal. 6:9). Enemies’ relentlessness brings battle fatigue. (Rom. 13:11; Lk. 18:1). We must choose to persevere, which demands hope (2 Tim. 1:6-7; 1 Pet. 2:15; 3:17; 4:15; Isa. 40:25; 2 Cor. 4:6-14; 2 Tim. 4:7-8).

REMEDY? Keep renewing your mind (Rom. 12:1-2). Take thoughts captive and replace (2 Cor. 10:3-5; Eph. 4:17-24). Pray continually (Eph. 6:18-20)

CONC: Put on the belt, breastplate, and shoes. Take up the shield of faith and the helmet of hope. All Believers *have been* saved. All believers *are being* saved. All believers *will be* saved – and thus Paul tells us to take the helmet of hope, “the hope of salvation” into battle. Living without hope is like running a race with no finish line. We know how this ends. Because of Christ we never fight for the victory, but *from* the victory. No wonder the writer of Hebrews tells us that “hope is an anchor for the soul that is steadfast and sure” (Heb. 6:19). So H-O-P-E: Hold On Pray Expectantly! Next? The sword of the Spirit, the Word of God.