

## The Helmet of Salvation

Ephesians 6:17a

### Ephesians 6:10-17a

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places...

...Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation...”

### Prayer

- The longer I follow Jesus, the older I get, the longer I'm married, the older my kids get, the more I realize that life will OFTEN be a battle.
- (John 16), “in this world, you WILL HAVE trouble.”
  - As long as we are living in a fallen world, we WILL experience the affects of sin. There WILL BE trouble.
  - And that's BEFORE the devil attacks!
- And THEN on top of that, enemy comes in and capitalizes on it with lies, and doubts, and distractions and discouragements, in an attempt to cripple us from advancing or even STANDING, in this spiritual battle.
- **But God has made provision for us.**
- **He has given us armor, so that we can stand, and even advance.**

### Four reminders that apply to each piece of armor:

#### THE ARMOR IS GOD'S ARMOR

- We're in a battle and we need ARMOR.
- GOD himself gives us HIS armor.
- And the reason this armor is called “The armor of God” is because God is actually the first one who is pictured wearing this armor, metaphorically.
- **Isaiah 59:15-18** “Then the Lord saw it, and it displeased Him, that there was no justice. He saw that there was no man, and was astonished that there was no intercessor. Therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him; and His own righteousness, it sustained Him. For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on His head; He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak. According to

their deeds, accordingly He will repay, fury to His adversaries, recompense to His enemies.”

- God is pictured, in the OT, as a victorious warrior who puts on this armor, clothing himself with the attributes OF Himself.
- And it is THIS armor that He gives to **us**. It's not our armor. It God's armor, and He puts it on us so that we can STAND in the spiritual battle we are in.
- Having PUT ON the armor of GOD, we will be able to stand IN THE VICTORY of God.

### THE ARMOR POINTS US TO, AND IS FULFILLED IN, JESUS

- Everything about the armor points to the finished work of Jesus, on our behalf.
- **Romans 13** says to “**put on the Lord Jesus Christ**”
  - **As we are clothed with Christ, we are clothed with all who He is and ARMED with who He is.**

### THE ARMOR IS METAPHORICAL, NOT MAGICAL

- We don't just pray “Lord give put the helmet of salvation on me”, and we are suddenly magical helmet protecting us from the devil.
- **Every piece of armor is a METAPHOR for a spiritual reality, that is necessary for the spiritual battle**

### THE ARMOR MUST BE APPROPRIATED, IN ORDER TO BE EFFECTIVE

- It does us no good to talk or pray about the armor. In order for it to do its job, we must **apply** the spiritual realities, that the armor represents, to our lives.
- I grew up playing football, helmet...
- **For a soldier, the helmet would have given him a similar kind of assurance, that he could MOVE FORWARD despite the onslaught of the enemy.**
- The helmet, was the last piece of armor that would have been put ONTO the soldier before he picked up his sword and headed out to battle.
- It would have protected the **head** of the soldier, as well as his **neck**, and most of his face, and it would've given him a certain confidence when entering into battle, knowing that WITH THE HELMET ON, he would be able to withstand even repeated blows from the enemy — he would be able **stand** when the enemy came against him, and be able to **continue** moving forward, in battle.
- **The helmet was ESSENTIAL for confidence AND for protection... as is the helmet of salvation ESSENTIAL for the believer — for protection — it protects our spiritual vitality and aliveness. But it also give us courage and confidence to keep moving forward.**
- **HOW DOES IT DO THIS?**
- **How does salvation give us courage and confidence to keep moving forward?**

- **WITH HOPE.**

- **1 Thessalonians 5:4-10 NIV** “But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, **and the hope of salvation as a helmet.** For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him.”

- **The helmet of salvation is a helmet of HOPE!**

- Anytime you see the word “hope” in the Bible, it’s talking about something that is coming in the FUTURE — something that God has done **for us** that has not yet been fully fulfilled.

- The helmet of salvation is speaking of the **hope of salvation** that is found in the full future fulfillment **of that** salvation.

- **THREE tenses to salvation, found in scripture (past, present, future)**

- **We HAVE BEEN saved.**

- **We ARE BEING saved.**

- **We WILL BE saved.**

- **We HAVE BEEN saved from the penalty of sin (2 Timothy 1:9)**

- **We ARE BEING saved from the power of sin (1 Corinthians 1:18)**

- **We WILL BE saved from the presence of sin (Romans 5:9-10)**

- **Revelation 20:10-15 NIV** “And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning fire, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. **They will be** tormented day and night for ever and ever...”

- ...Then I saw a great white throne and Him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from His presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and **books** were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life...

- ...The dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. **Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.**”

- you don’t want to be judged according to what is written in the “books”...

- This passage continues into the next chapter...

- **Revelation 21:1-5 NIV** ‘Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and He will dwell with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. **‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’**” He who was seated on the throne said, **“I am making everything new!”** Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”
- **THAT is the day when our salvation becomes FULLY complete** — The day when the enemy is finally and fully destroyed, and thrown into the lake of fire...
- When ALL the promises of salvation are fully fulfilled, in Jesus.
- **THAT is the HOPE of our salvation, and THAT is what the helmet of salvation is all about** — The hope of THAT coming day and THAT coming Kingdom!
  
- **But just like every other piece of this armor. The enemy wants to destroy it.**
- **Don’t forget the context of this passage. We are in a spiritual battle against the forces of wickedness.**
- **The enemy would love nothing more than to destroy our hope**, because hope and endurance go together. You lose your hope and you start giving up.
- But there is just a smidgeon of hope... that there’s something BETTER coming — that you’ll get through this... you can endure almost anything in life.
- The enemy wants to rob us of that because if he can rob us of hope that he can render us ineffective, because just like the helmet had the ability to keep the solder alive and confident is pressing on, HOPE is often the thing that keeps us going. So if they enemy can pilfer that, he will.
  
- We’ve talked a lot about the schemes of the enemy, over the last several weeks — HOW he attacks.
- He will use all of those things, and more, in an attempt to extinguish our hope.
  - He will use deception, and lies and distraction, and confusion.
  - He will use shame, and temptation, and exhaustion.
  - As Brian spoke about last week, he will use discouragement, which can directly affect hope, specifically, with the the kind of discouragement that comes from sin and/or suffering.
  
- One more scheme of the enemy: Disillusionment.
- Disillusionment is where you begin to lose sight of what is really true.
- In this case, the enemy’s tactic is to get us to become so consumed with the things of this world that we lose sight of our eternal hopeful future.

- He will attempt to disillusion us, in an effort to consume our minds with the things of this world until THOSE THINGS bigger than the things of God... until those things begin to steal our affections and attention and passion, until those things become stronger and bigger than the hope of our salvation.
  - examples...
- This kind of disillusionment has a way of discouraging or distracting the believer until they become all but ineffective in the battle against the enemy.
- Satan is out to destroy us. But if he can't destroy us, then he will do everything he can to make us give up. Disillusionment and discouraging have a way of doing that.
- **And how do we protect against that? With the hope of our salvation.**
- **It is the hope of that coming day when Christ returns and makes all things right and our salvation is complete.**
- **And the Bible says that THAT future is so glorious, that it will make the the worst affliction on earth seem like nothing.**
- **“Our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us... For our light and momentary affliction is producing for us an eternal glory that is far beyond comparison.” (Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 4:17)**
- If you are weighed down with the discouragement from life, RECEIVE THIS HOPE today.
- **There is a day coming when sin, suffering, and death, will be no more, every tear will be wiped away, and evil will be destroyed.**
- **To put on the helmet of salvation, means to fill our minds and thoughts with these things that are to come.**
- This is how we appropriate the helmet of salvation.
  - We rehearse the truths of what is coming until they strengthen our souls and give us CONFIDENCE to boldly stand, and until the hope of these future things, begin to affect our present reality.
- **Lastly:** This verb: “take” the helmet of salvation... it literally means to “receive” the helmet of salvation.
- Once the soldier had all of his gear on, and his shield in hand, he couldn't put on his helmet by himself. Someone else would've put it on Him.
- Like a Father putting a football helmet on his son, and saying, “Get out there. You got this.” God HIMSELF, puts this hope in us, and on us, as we think about, and dwell on, these things.
- Imagine going into the game of your life, against a strong opponent, KNOWING that, without a shadow of a doubt, you were gonna win...
- That's the kind of confident assurance we have today, because of what God has done through Jesus and the future hope we have in Him.
- We know how the story ends. Jesus wins, and we're on His team. This is our hope.