

The Helmet of Salvation (Ephesians 6:16)

I. Introduction

- A. Ephesians a letter of contrasts
- B. Looking at the armor of God in a topical manner
- C. Read the text and outline of today's sermon
 - 1. Goal: To understand the doctrine of salvation, so that we might better love and worship a Great God who saves great sinners.
- D. Pray
- E. The Goal expanded: *What is God's Eternal Plan of Salvation?*
 - 1. Illustrated in a Gospel tract with a simple ABC understanding vs. God's magnificent inconceivable eternal plan (Eph 3:11)

II. Salvation Past

- A. Salvation described in the *past tense* (Lk 19:9, Ep 2:8, 2 Ti 1:9, Ti 3:5)
- B. The cross (Jn 19:30 "*It is finished*")
 - 1. '*Once for all*' (Heb 9:12, Rom 6:10)
 - 2. An eternal decree worked out in real human time (Acts 2:23, 4:27)
- C. Your receiving salvation (once you were blind, now you can see)
 - 1. Born an enemy, now saved from the guilt and consequences of sin
- D. Remind yourself often of the objective completed actions of your Great Salvation – particularly when Satan tempts you to despair

III. Salvation Present – Romans 8:29: the continuing work of God to conform us to the image of His Son

- A. Salvation described in *present tense* (Ro 5:10-11, 1Co 1:18, 15:2, 2 Co 2:15)
- B. In Christ, you are being conformed to His image as you are transformed by the renewing of your mind (Rom 12:2, 2 Cor 3:17-18)
- C. Your good works are His work in you (Phil 2:12-13)
 - 1. God even put the will or desires in your heart, as you delight in Him (Ps 37:4)
 - 2. If you don't have Godly desires, it is likely because you are delighting in other things (2 Cor 3:17-18)

IV. Salvation Future – Romans 8:30: the justified are also glorified

- A. Jesus agrees with Paul on the surety that those drawn will be saved (John 6:39,40,44)
- B. Living in the present with a future hope of salvation
 - 1. '*the helmet of the hope of salvation*' (1 Thes 5:8-10)
 - 2. *a living hope* (1 Peter 1:1-5, Ro 8:24)
 - 3. *the blessed hope* (Titus 2:11-14)
 - 4. comforting words (Ro 13:11, 1 Cor 15:51-54, 1 Thes 4:16-18)

V. How shall you escape if you neglect so great a salvation? (Heb 2:3)

- A. Jesus is the only way of salvation (Jn 14:6, Acts 4:12, 1 Jn 5:12, Jn 3:36) – so don't miss this opportunity for you to *repent and believe the Gospel* – come to Christ, be saved from the wrath to come, and receive eternal life in Him!