

## Part 6: The Helmet of Salvation

**Text: Ephesians 6:10-16** “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation...”

**Purpose:** Paul wrote this section, recognizing both the reality of the constant conflict with spiritual wickedness in high places, and the means by which God strengthens Christians in the battle so they can be victorious.

**Proposition:** God wants us to focus our thinking on the reality of our coming salvation when we are most prone to discouragement in the battle.

**Interrogative:** How can we do this?

### Review

**Article 1: Have your loins girt about with truth...**

**Article 2: Have on the breastplate of righteousness...**

**Article 3: Have your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace...**

**Article 4: Taking the shield of faith...**

**Article 5: Take the helmet of salvation...**

### Take the helmet of salvation:

#### Question 1: What is the helmet of salvation?

- **Dwight Pentecost in His book *Designed to be Like Him* wrote:** “NO ROMAN SOLDIER would think of advancing into battle without a helmet to cover his head. This helmet was usually a cap made of leather to which metal plates had been fastened. Some helmets were made of solid metal cast in the form of a head-covering. Whatever the external form of the helmet, the purpose was the same—to protect the head from the blows of the broadsword.<sup>1</sup>” **Simply put for the soldier:** The purpose of the helmet protects the mind.

#### Two Facts about the Helmet:

- **Fact 1: The helmet is a defensive instrument to protect how the Christian thinks:**
  - **Simply put for the Christian:** The state of the Christian’s mental health is perhaps the single most important thing that is true about him.
    - **Every Christian Needs: freedom from internal restlessness**
      - A confidence that He is saved.
      - A clean conscience.
      - A disinterest in the favorable or unfavorable opinions of others.

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<sup>1</sup> J. Dwight Pentecost, *Designed to Be like Him: Understanding God’s Plan for Fellowship, Conduct, Conflict, and Maturity* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2001), 250.

- A freedom from the lust of materialism.
- A confidence in the providence of God.
- An all-consuming passion for God and His Kingdom
- **Fact 2: Putting on the helmet is an illustration of the Christian choosing to focus his thinking on his salvation when he is in the face of tremendous spiritual opposition:**
  - What aspect of our salvation are the scriptures telling us to focus upon?
    - **The Christian’s salvation in the Past:**
    - **The Christian’s salvation in the Present:**
    - **The Christian’s salvation in the Future: 1 Thessalonians 5:8-9** “Let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ...”
      - **Saved from the wrath of God both in the Tribulation and for all eternity: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-9** “Yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night...But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief...Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober...let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ...”
      - **Saved from the Corruption of our fallenness and our fallen world: Romans 8:18-23** “I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God...the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God...we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body...”
      - **Saved from the grip of sin and death: 1 Corinthians 15:51-54** “Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed...For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality...then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory...”
- **Fact 3:** The aspect of our salvation that he is emphasizing is the believer’s blessed hope, our future deliverance from this fallen world and entrance into God’s eternal Kingdom.

## **Question 2: How does Satan attack us in this area?**

**6:11** “Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil... **6:13** that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day...”

- Satan seeks to capitalize on every moment of weakness we face whether self-inflicted or otherwise.
  - Health crisis
  - Relational crisis
  - Financial crisis

- The hardships of life for me or for others
- The constant struggle of besetting sins
- He seeks to convince us that we cannot stand when we face relentless waves of intense troubles.
- He seeks to convince us the battle will never end.
- He seeks to draw us into a shortsighted perspective where all we can see is what is happening today, rather than the glory that is yet to come.
- He seeks to convince us that God is not good, does not care, or is unable to use your current circumstances for your good and His glory.

### **Question 3: How does this piece of armor meet the need?**

**Illustration:** Running a race with the perspective of mile markers and the ultimate end.

- **It puts our current plights in perspective:**
  - **There is an answer for why this world is the way that it is.**
  - **There is an answer for why I struggle with sin.**
  - **There is an answer for why I face physical infirmities.**
  - **There is an answer for why God does not insulate me from every problem.**
- It instructs me that the battle is not without purpose or end.
- It instructs me that God will reward my faithfulness, and in that day the struggle will have been worth it.
- It instructs me that I can stand by the enablement of our all-mighty God, and there is glory yet to come in the future.

**Conclusion:** God wants us to focus our thinking on the reality of our coming salvation when we are most prone to discouragement in the battle. Let's purpose to establish the daily discipline of focusing our attention on aspects of our salvation that we have not yet experienced!