

## THE ARMOUR OF GOD - PART V The Helmet of Salvation

Text: Ephesians 6:17a

**Key Word:** Helmet

**Key Thought:** God Offers Protection for our Thoughts

The 5th piece of spiritual armour brought vivid pictures into the minds of Paul's readers because of the Roman soldier's armour. A Roman soldier wore a kind of cap that was made of leather. This cap was ornamented and strengthened with plates of metal. Surrounding all of these was a kind of crest or plume.

When a soldier heard the sound for battle, he would reach for his helmet, sword and shield after putting on his belt, breastplate and sandals. The helmet protected the head much like the breastplate protected the chest. In the spiritual application, one protected the thoughts in our mind or the intellectual part of us while the other offered protection over our feelings and emotions.

**In any war there must be a concentration upon the details of each tactic but also one must get the overall picture of strategy of any wartime campaign.** There must be the officers in the field as well as the generals in the command centre in order to get the "big picture."

The helmet of salvation is provided to protect us from the assaults against our mind that gets us to concentrate on the local skirmishes instead of the big picture.

*"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."*

*Galatians 6:9*

Christians become weary simply because of the intensity of the battle and the burden of the day. The campaign has been long and the warfare is constant. When the helmet is not used, the enemy begins to attack with thoughts of hopelessness.

Have you ever felt that it is useless going on for God? Does the enemy seem too strong and wise to overcome? Do you feel weak and foolish in comparison? If so, you need to understand this important part of your spiritual armour.

**I. THE EXAMPLE OF THE HEBREWS - Focussing on the Past**

**II. THE EXAMPLE OF THE ARABS - Focussing on the Present**

**III. THE EXAMPLE OF CHRISTIANS - Focussing on the Future**

## **I. THE EXAMPLE OF THE HEBREWS - Focussing on the Past**

The Book of Hebrews can be seen as an extended commentary of the helmet of salvation. The Hebrew Christians had believed the Christian gospel and began to pattern their lives after its truth. At the beginning they enjoyed their newfound faith. But soon they became ostracized by their fellow-countrymen. They were regarded as traitors.

They began to become discouraged because their Messiah was not returning for them as they had hoped for. They began to question whether they had made a good decision. They wondered whether they should return to their Jewish rituals of worship.

They were weary, they were tired, they were persecuted, they were tempted, everything seemed to be against them. The devil was encouraging them to quit, to give up, to return to their former ways. This has been a common problem - which even Peter addressed when he wrote,

*"First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires.*

*4. They will say, 'Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation . . .*

*8. But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.*

*9. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."*

*II Peter 3:3,4,8,9*

The enemy continues to attack our minds with these thoughts. He accuses Christianity of making wonderful offers but not delivering. He even uses influential people to make false promises that God never made. The experience of the Psalmist (**Read Psalm 73:1-17**) seems to be our lot. In the midst of trials the Psalmist took his eyes off of God and began to focus upon the prosperity of the wealthy. He felt he had washed his hands in vain.

## II. THE EXAMPLE OF THE ARABS - Focussing on the Present

### 5477 Horses' Long Await for Rider

\*\*\* The most remarkable horse in the world has been kept in readiness since 1072 for the expected resurrection of the Sultan Muhammad Ibn Duad.

The Sultan ruled Iran as well as the large area between the Tigris and the Oxus during what was termed Iran's Golden Age. He extended the frontiers of his country through conquest and greatly expanded their wealth in the process.

As soon as he died a myth and legend arose which said that he would rise from his tomb, mount his horse and lead his subjects to new conquests of glory.

This belief grew to a point that a thoroughbred horse complete with saddle has been kept near his tomb in the Mosque of Kuchan, province of Khorasan. It is waiting for the day when the dead sultan will emerge from his tomb to resume the reins of both the horse and the government. \*\*\*

Isn't it interesting that people place such hope in someone or something that has never given them one ounce of hope? People today are calling up the Psychic 1-800 #'s to see what their future holds. They ask what numbers they should gamble with; they ask if they should marry; they ask what job they should take; they ask where they should invest their money. The list goes on and on.

People who are only interested in immediate pleasures are often captivated by these charlatans. We must keep the helmet of salvation in place.

"The devil succeeds at times in persuading us to become so preoccupied with the details of the Christian life that we forget the grand truth covering the whole."

D. Martyn-Lloyd-Jones  
"The Christian Soldier"  
p. 314

### III. THE EXAMPLE OF CHRISTIANS - Focussing on the Future

We must be careful about being so engulfed in the trees that we miss the woods.  
Remember that your wounds are not in vain - your struggle has a purpose.

*"But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet."*

*I Thessalonians 5:8*

The helmet of salvation offers us the hope that is needed to keep focussed in the times of struggle. We have a hope that is sure and steadfast in the times of troubled waters.

*"The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.  
12. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light."*

*Romans 13:11,12*

Our salvation did not end on the day we accepted the Lord as our Saviour. We were saved; we are being saved; and we shall be saved. Our hope of salvation is that some day soon we shall see the King.

*"If I have fought the beasts in Ephesus for merely human reasons, what have I gained? If the dead are not raised, . . ."*

*I Corinthians 15:32*

Paul knew that the daily struggles amounted to nothing if the truth of the resurrection was not imbedded into his heart and mind. But with hope in his heart the apostle was able to stand against any and every trouble that entered his life.

### III. THE EXAMPLE OF CHRISTIANS - Focussing on the Future (Contd.)

*"For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.*

*18. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."*

*II Corinthians 4:17,18*

When the enemy comes in with his flood of thoughts to trouble our mind, we have a defence against him. We can tell him that if God be for us, who can be against us. We can ensure him that nothing can separate from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus. We can inform him that we are looking to our blessed hope.

"Stand up, Stand up for Jesus!  
The strife will not be long:  
This day the noise of battle,  
The next the victor's song,  
To him that overcometh  
A crown of life shall be;  
He with the King of Glory  
Shall reign eternally."

[George Duffield](#)

Has the devil tempted you to give up the fight of faith and return to the world's "pleasures?" Do you better understand the deceitfulness behind his tactics? Keep your head up high with your helmet of salvation in place.

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Date: Mar 26/17

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: Mighty Warrior

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**II. THE EXAMPLE OF THE ARABS - Focussing on the Present**

**III. THE EXAMPLE OF CHRISTIANS - Focussing on the Future** - *I Thessalonians 5:8; Romans 13:11,12; I Corinthians 15:32; II Corinthians 4:17,18*