

**Helmet of Salvation**  
Series: The Armor of God  
Ephesians 6:13,17a  
February 20, 2022

Welcome again to worship. Whether you are inside or online, thank you for being here.

We are nearing the end of our series “The Armor of God.” This week and next and that’s it; we will be in Lent already.

So, I invite you to turn to page 5 in your bulletin, or if you are online, grab your spiritual journal and your Bible and turn to Ephesians 6:13,17a:

*Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm... Put on salvation as your helmet...<sup>1</sup>*

**Today’s armor is the helmet of salvation.**

There was once a soldier who, in the heat of battle, had his gun jam on him. The enemy was charging straight for him, and he was defenseless, desperate! For some unknown reason, he pointed his finger at the man and said, “Bangedy, bangedy, bang.” The enemy soldier fell down dead. He looked at his hand and thought, wow! Another man charged him and again, “Bangedy, bangedy, bang.” Dead. He couldn’t believe this could be!

Then a whole group turned toward him. He just pretended he had a bazooka and said, “Boomedy, boomedy, boom.” They all collapsed. He was ecstatic!

Another soldier just slowly strolled toward him. Bangedy, bangedy, bang! Nothing. Bangedy, bangedy, bang. No result... he just kept coming. Boomedy boomedy boom! No change. The guy calmly and smoothly kept coming toward him, and it was obvious he was saying something, but he couldn’t make it out until he got right up on him... he rolled right over him saying, “Tankety tankety tank!”

I’m afraid both these guys went into battle without their helmets. Just a little touched in the head, I do believe.

The Greek word for helmet is a compound word; that is, it is two words, put together, to make another word.

*Per-ee*<sup>2</sup> often meant “concerning”, but in this case, it meant surrounding. We get our word perimeter from this. Perimeter is the surrounding area.

*Kephalē*<sup>3</sup> means head.

So, *Per-ee*<sup>2</sup> plus *Kephalē* equals helmet. It is something that surrounds or goes around the head.

Roman helmets were made of tough iron or bronze with cheek guards and with an inside lining of sponge that made the weight bearable. It was heavy. Some of us do not have the neck muscles to hold them up. It was strong enough so that nothing short of an ax could penetrate the helmet.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Ephesians 6:13,17a (NLT2)

<sup>2</sup> περί

<sup>3</sup> κεφαλή

<sup>4</sup> Christ-Centered Exposition - Exalting Jesus In Ephesians: Christ-Centered Exposition, Ephesians 6:17

Wearing a helmet in battle was a must in Paul's day, as it has been in most of the history of warfare, for obvious reasons. Your brain is in your head! The head must be protected because it holds the brain which is crucial for all thinking and actions! Our brains are so important that our heads must be protected if there is a chance of injury. You can go to the Internet and read stories after stories of people protected from major head injuries because they wore a helmet. And of course, those who go to battle, where there is a chance of something hitting the head, soldiers wear helmets. According to a report by the United States Army, over half of the American Soldiers who fought in World War II, would have been killed if they didn't wear their helmets!

**MATT GETTING HIS BELL RUNG.**

The head is that part which is most carefully to be defended. One stroke here may prove fatal.

Here in Ephesians, Paul calls this piece of armor the "helmet of salvation." He is echoing the prophet Isaiah:

*He put on righteousness as his body armor and placed the helmet of salvation on his head.*<sup>5</sup>

In 1 Thessalonians 5:8, it's a little different:

*But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.*<sup>6</sup>

**1 Thessalonians 5:8 adds the word hope.**

I don't think there is a big difference here. What he means by hope here is the promise of salvation.

Paul says to put on salvation as your helmet. So, just like the breastplate of righteousness, the helmet of salvation is a protective part of the armor of God. They help us resist the enemy in the time of evil and stand firm.<sup>7</sup>

So, why do we need this protection? How does the hope, the promise of salvation protect us from the enemy in the time of evil? Why do you need the helmet of salvation in these end-times days?

**First, it protects the thoughts.**

One of the first things the devil tries to do is deceive. He has an uncanny ability to deceive. He's so good at masquerading, 2 Corinthians 11:14 warns that he is "an angel of light." He deceives people into thinking there's no reason to fear him, for they think he doesn't exist or it is harmless to have a satanist group in an elementary school.

Satan tries to manipulate us and ultimately derail us from answering our callings in Christ. He tries to get our thoughts off God, off our salvation, and focus them on ourselves and how good we are.

My friends, the devil is a powerful spiritual force who works against God in every way he possibly can. That's why I am writing a book called "Unseen Warfare."

So, the helmet of salvation protects our thoughts from Satan's lies and deceptions.

**Second, the helmet of salvation protects the emotions.**

Satan will try to capture your emotions. You see, at first, he tries to tell us we don't need God, that we are good enough without Him. Then, when we are in his

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<sup>5</sup> Isaiah 59:17a (NLT2)

<sup>6</sup> 1 Thessalonians 5:8 (ESV)

<sup>7</sup> See Ephesians 6:13

clutches, he then tries to tear us down to convince us how bad we are. He does this by filling our hearts with all kinds of destruction feelings.

Just like in warfare, without the helmet the soldier could be easily killed. The helmet of salvation protects the soul from death in the combat with evil. It will both purify the soul and keep it from being defiled by Satan, and it will comfort the soul and keep it from being troubled and tormented by Satan. He would tempt us to despair; but good hope keeps us trusting in God, and rejoicing in Him.

**Finally, the helmet of salvation protects the confidence.**

Often on helmets of antiquity, emblems or crests would be displayed on the helmet to identify the soldier, what country or king they fought for. It might be something that would indicate rank or accomplishment. Helmets provided a striking symbol of military power and victory.

When we put on the helmet of salvation, we are going into battle with the confidence that we are soldiers of Christ, and that Satan is already a defeated foe. God wins always, every time, and forever.

So, the hope of conquering every adversary and surmounting every difficulty, through the blood of the Lamb, is as a helmet that protects the head; an impenetrable one, that the blow of the axe cannot sever. The hope of continual safety and protection, built on the promises of God, to which the upright follower of Christ feels he or she has a Divine right, protects the understanding from being darkened, and the judgment from being confused by any temptations of Satan, or subtle arguments of the ungodly. Those who carry Christ in their heart cannot be cheated out of the hope of his heaven.<sup>8</sup>

Somehow, the young man found himself standing directly in the path of an oncoming car. The driver hit her brakes. Before either of them could do anything, the 10-year-old boy was shoulder deep in the windshield of the automobile.

"Are you alright," asked the driver.

From inside the football helmet, a squeaky voice responded, "I think so!" The boy, a participant in Pop Warner Football, was on the way home from practice, in full uniform. The driver saw the boy too late to stop. The boy saw the car too late to get out of the way. But everyone was okay.

From this story we see that it is necessary to have on the proper protective equipment. The devil is out there on the highway of life trying to plow through the children of God walking on the King's Highway.

The helmet of salvation which is in Christ gives us forgiveness for the sins of the past and strength to conquer sin in the days to come.<sup>9</sup>

Our goal as Christians is to live a life always with the confidence in our minds that you are a child of God! Make this your goal and you will see less and less of the devil's attacks to your mind. Always put on the Helmet of Salvation, so when the devil comes to confuse your mind, you can tell him, "I will not listen to your lies, I am a child of God!" Memorize this statement, "I am a child of God, I will not listen to the devil's lies!" Say it with me!

"I am a child of God, I will not listen to the devil's lies!"

"I am a child of God, I will not listen to the devil's lies!"

"I am a child of God, I will not listen to the devil's lies!"

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<sup>8</sup> Adam Clarke's Commentary, Ephesians 6:17

<sup>9</sup> Barclay's Daily Study Bible, Ephesians 6:17