

# THE ARMOR OF GOD

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS WITH PASTOR JACK ABELEN

## Knowing Our Adversary and the Armor of God Week 8: Ephesians 6:17a - The Helmet of Salvation

### Introduction

- A. Paul's final word to the Ephesian church focuses on the conflict they will be facing as they seek to follow Jesus in this world, walking the walk. It is that conflict with our enemy and the resources God has provided for us that is at the crux of this series.
- B. The battle for the saints is found in three areas: the flesh vs. the Spirit (Gal.5), heavenly mindsets vs. the world's valuations (Jn.15), and the believer vs. the devil and his minions (Eph.6).
- C. Review weeks 1-3 of knowing our adversary.
- D. Review weeks 4-7 of the armor of God.
- E. Tonight we come to the helmet of salvation, the 5<sup>th</sup> piece of armor, having already considered the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace, and the shield of faith.

### Putting on our Helmets

- A. The necessity of headgear to many different professions and activities suggests to us its importance. The Roman helmet was made of leather covered with metal patches and sometimes formed in brass.
- B. It provided protection from fiery darts flying through the sky but was primarily designed to protect the soldier from a blow to the head by a broadsword.
- C. Spiritually, it is the helmet of salvation, a knowledge that will allow us to stand when the death blows of Satan seek to take us permanently out of our walks with God.
- D. Since it is written to the saints, we know Paul is not talking simply about getting saved or our initial salvation.
- E. Salvation in biblical terms has 3 aspects -- past, present, and future.
  - 1. **Past:** When I received Jesus as my Savior and Lord I was saved from the penalty of sin. That truth is driven home throughout the Word (Ps.51:9)(Ps.130:3)(Isa.53:5)(Mic.7:19)(Rom.4:7-8)(Heb.8:12).
  - 2. It is the past work of deliverance that is often spoken of when we read of salvation.
  - 3. **Present:** There is a further work of God in salvation to be found in our daily lives, in the present tense. He seeks to deliver us each day from the power of sin, helping me now to put off the old man and put on the new one created in Him.
  - 4. That work is an ongoing one that requires our submission (Rom.6:14; 8:2)(Mt.1:21)(Jn.8:36).
  - 5. **Future:** The future holds an even more glorious hope -- deliverance from the presence of sin, when we join with our Lord in glory forevermore (1Jn.2:17)(Isa.35:10)(1Co.15:54)(Rev.21:4-5).
- F. So salvation is past (justification); it is present (sanctification); and it is future (glorification). It is this future aspect that Paul wrote about to the Corinthians (1Co.15:55) and Jesus spoke of to Martha (Jn.11:25-26). It is also that future hope that Paul speaks of here in wearing the helmet of salvation.

## **Our Future Hope**

- A. (Rom.8:22-25) We are saved by this hope of future salvation for without it, the grind of our daily walks would eventually overcome us. Removing a future hope from our spiritual walks would be like running a race without a finish line! Yet there is an end we are running towards (Gal.5:5).
- B. (1Pe.1:3-7) This hope is a living hope. As we are able to press on through many difficulties in life for the reward that awaits, so can we stand in the battle for it will soon be over and glory awaits! Paul speaks of this very thing in writing to the Thessalonians (1Th.5:8-11).

## **Full Assurance**

- A. The story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal (1Ki.18-19) teach us much about how discouragement can overwhelm us, even those whose ministries have been so powerfully used like Elijah!
- B. No wonder Paul felt led to tell the Galatians to hang in there (Gal.6:9).
- C. Paul told the Hebrews to hang on with a full assurance unto the end (Heb.6:11-12). How quickly we can go from the enthusiasm of the new believer to the despair of an old saint who has forgotten his hope.
- D. So Paul wrote (Heb.10:22-25)(Heb.12:1-4), and Peter added (2Pe.3:1-4,14-15).

## **Remedy for Battle Fatigue**

- A. One remedy for battle fatigue is to keep your eyes on the finish line and what awaits us there (Rom.13:11).
- B. Jesus told His disciples that endurance was a quality of life for the saints (Mt.10:22). He wrote similar words to the churches (Rev.2-3).
- C. Paul wrote to a discouraged disciple Timothy (2Ti.1:6-10) to fight the good fight, just as he had.
- D. God's work in and for us will produce a lasting and sustained hope (Isa.40:28-31).
- E. Aged John wrote (1Jn.3:2), and Paul assessed the present in light of our future hope (Rom.8:18). It is worth the battle!

## **Conclusion**

- A. Review – there is bright hope for the saint, but for the unbeliever, the future is not nearly as bright.
- B. Know that the Lord is coming soon. Put on the helmet of salvation and press on, for the end is coming and the rewards are well worth the effort and the wait.
- C. Next week we will focus on the sword of the Spirit.