

# Finishing Well

Lesson #21

Take The Helmet Of Salvation

June 15, 2022

Eph. 6:10-17 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might.

<sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

<sup>12</sup> 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.

<sup>13</sup> 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.

<sup>14</sup> 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;

Dr. Lloyd-Jones: Paul referred to other pieces of the armor of God as things to "have."

- Having was the verb: having your loins, having your feet, having on the breastplate
- Idea of the things that are permanent in your walk. Long-range preparation for battle
  - There would be a lull in the battle.
  - The soldier might rest, but he would not take off his breastplate, his belt and shoes.

But when the battle heated up, he would take up his shield, take his helmet and his sword.

- These are for immediate readiness in the heat of the battle.

The action now changes to "take."

- The first 3 pieces of armor are fixed firmly to the body, but the shield must be taken up.
- When the arrows start flying, you must take up the shield of faith, pull on the helmet of salvation and grab the sword of the Spirit.

<sup>16</sup> Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

<sup>17</sup> And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God:

Eph. 6:17a And take the helmet of salvation,

The preposition "of" is one of apposition, meaning, "the helmet, which is salvation."

Apposition: When we use two noun phrases next to each other in a clause, and they refer to the same person or thing, we call this apposition > my friend the doctor.

Key Point: Salvation is portrayed as a helmet.

Isa. 59:17 Isaiah pictures God as a Divine Warrior who shows up to deliver His people wearing a breastplate of righteousness and a helmet of salvation.

## What is Salvation?

Every human being has thought and acted in ways that are abominable to God. Our sins break God's laws designed for our good. Sin is so vile to God that it requires the death penalty.

God's loving mercy provided the most incredible substitute.

Jesus Christ, our Creator, was willing to die in our place!

Rom. 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Rom. 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Rom. 5:8 But God commendeth [demonstrates] His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

John 3:16-17 For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.

I Tim. 2:3-4 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior;

<sup>4</sup> Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

Eph. 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: <sup>9</sup> Not of works, lest any man should boast.

### 3 Tenses of Salvation

Past Tense	Justified	Saved from the PENALTY of sin	Point in time
	o Eph. 2:8	You have been saved by grace through faith.	
	o Rom. 5:1	Your spirit is alive! You are a new creation in Christ Jesus.	
Present Tense	Sanctification	Saved from the POWER of sin	Process over time
	o I Cor. 1:18	Your soul [mind, will, emotions] is being saved & continually renewed.	
<u>I Cor. 1:18</u> For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the <u>power of God</u> .			
<u>Rom. 12:2</u> being "transformed by the renewing of your mind"			
Future Tense	Glorification	Saved from the PRESENCE of sin	Point in time
	o Rom. 8:23, Phil. 3:21, I John 3:2	Your glorified body like Jesus	

### Christian's Call To Battle

Eph. 6:16-17 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

<sup>17</sup> And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God:

Eph. 6:10-18 What is Paul's burden for the believer?

- Be strong Christians so we can stand firm against our spiritual enemy, Satan, the devil.

Eph. 6:12 We wrestle against the rulers, the authorities, and the cosmic powers over this present darkness and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Note: The power of Satan is deception, not might; trickery, not force.

His strategies work through evil schemes to overthrow our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The MIND and the thought life are the major battle zones for a Christian.

Satan wants you to be deceived regarding your standing with the Lord.

- Satan schemes so unbelievers will live with a false assurance of their salvation. He wants them to think they have something they don't really have.

"You can live your life in church doing great things in the name of the Lord and stand before Jesus and have to introduce yourself." [HB Charles]

- Satan schemes so believers will live without true salvation.

Satan wants believers spending their lives looking for something they already have.

Without assurance of your salvation, you are doomed to live in doubt.

Without assurance of your salvation, you are doomed to live everyday with distraction.

- You are consumed by the storms of life because you are not holding fast to The Anchor of your soul.

Without assurance of your salvation, you are doomed to live in discouragement.

- The dangers, toils and snares of life will overwhelm you if you cannot say,
- Whatever My Lot, Thou Has Taught Me To Say, It Is Well With My Soul.

### How Is The Helmet Also Salvation?

The Roman soldier's helmet was a fascinating and flamboyant piece of armor, very ornate and intricate. Highly decorated with all kinds of engravings and etchings, the helmet looked more like a beautiful piece of artwork than a simple piece of metal formed to fit the head of a soldier. It was usually crowned with a plume or crest as an ornament.

- Evidence suggests these ceremonial helmets denoted rank and standing.

The helmets made of thick leather were often covered with metal like bronze.

There were thick bands to protect the forehead and plates of metal to protect the jaw and the cheeks. The metal cover extended down the back to protect the neck.

When it was tightly strapped on the only exposed areas were the eyes, nose and mouth.

They did not want their soldiers to suffer a concussion and be controlled by fuzzy vision and confused thinking.

Saving Private Ryan: There's a scene where a soldier takes off his helmet to analyze a bullet that just hit it. The moment he does so, the enemy takes advantage and shoots his exposed head, killing him instantly.

The most obvious value of the helmet was to protect against blows to the head.

In warfare, the enemy commonly attacked the head since the soldier's mind controlled his decisions and reactions in a fight.

To harm the head was to gain an advantage in combat. Our enemy, Satan, does the same.

Satan loves to plague us with doubts about our salvation, inject worldly ideas in our minds and have us focus on our lives and circumstances now instead of eternity.

### Take The Helmet Which Is Salvation

Note #1: The command is plural - y'all take the helmet.

Note #2: This an urgent command. It has the sense of "do this right now; don't delay."

Once the soldier had on all his other armor and was ready to go into battle, his attendant or armor bearer would hand him his shield, his helmet and his sword. The soldier would have to take or accept those pieces of the armor in order to be properly prepared for battle.

When a soldier suited up for battle, the helmet was the last piece of armor to go on.

It was the final act of readiness in preparation for combat.

A helmet was vital for survival, protecting the brain, the command station for the rest of the body. If the head was badly damaged, the rest of the armor would be of little use

Sensual Christianity: Too many believers are weak because immature faith is rooted in how they feel. There is no victory in how you feel. Real faith is not a matter of how you feel. You need the helmet of salvation so you can operate in what you know to be true even while you wait for your feelings to catch up with what you know.

Don't go out into the battlefield of the world without your helmet on!

Stand firm against the enemy by taking the helmet of salvation!

Salvation means that God has rescued you in the past from the penalty of sin through your faith in His Son, Jesus Christ. He is rescuing you in the present from the power of sin through the resurrection life of Christ in you. He will rescue you in the future from the presence of sin when Jesus Christ returns in power and glory.

TAKE the helmet which is salvation [past, present, future] = Accept or receive it

- You RECEIVE the helmet as a divine gift. It will guard your mind.

### My Helmet Is The Hope Of Salvation

Paul provides more information about this helmet which is salvation.

I Thess. 5:8-11 But 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 [deliverance] by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake [alive] or sleep [dead], we should live together with Him.

Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

#### Background & Context:

I Thess. 1:9-10 For they themselves show of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; [their salvation; justification] <sup>10</sup> And to wait for his Son from heaven, [present occupation is their expectation to wait for His Son from heaven] whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus,

#### Who delivers us from the Wrath To Come.

- Deliver = Strong's 4506 rhuomai= draw to oneself - properly, draw (pull) to oneself; to rescue ("snatch up"); to draw or rescue a person to and for the deliverer.
- Literal: and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, Who Delivers Us From The Wrath To Come.

Note: The word "wrath" in the New Testament does not apply to eternal judgment.

- Eternal judgment is not the wrath of God.
- It is not in anger or wrath that God consigns a person to eternal judgment.
- Eternal judgment is a righteous act of God.

Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

II Pet. 3:9b But is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

John 1:9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. However, to those who refuse His mercy and trample the sacrifice of His Son Jesus Christ as if it were vile [Heb. 10:26-31], He is a God of justice and righteous judgment. These, who leave Him with no alternative will be cast into the Lake of Fire.

Consider: Wrath speaks of God's outpoured judgment upon sin during history and in time on the face of the earth.

Rev. 6:16b-17 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:  
<sup>17</sup> For the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

Rom. 5:8-10 But God commendeth [demonstrates] His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

- Having been justified Strong's #1344 dikaió declares me righteous
- Shall be saved Strong's #4982 sózó save, preserve, rescue.

<sup>10</sup> For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

- If God saved me when we were enemies, I am sure He will keep on saving me now that I am His child. There is a wrath to come, but His children will not experience His Wrath.
- His death accomplished so much for us. How much more will He do for us in His Life as He intercedes for us. We are saved by His life.

Consider: Hope comes from believing the promises of God.

Promise: Jesus is our deliverer from The Wrath to come.

- The Wrath describes the Tribulation period which the prophets had anticipated and which Jesus predicted.

Note: In I Thess. 4, the Rapture is described.

<sup>13</sup>But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

<sup>15</sup> For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

<sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

<sup>17</sup> Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

<sup>18</sup> Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

In I Thess. 5, Paul considers what shall take place after the Rapture.

- He describes the Day of the Lord or beginning of the Tribulation Period.
- He discusses the severity of it. THEN, he adds a word of consolation.

I Thess. 5:8-11 But 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, Who died for us, that, whether we wake [alive] or sleep [dead], we should live together with Him.

Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

This comfort is simply because we have a Deliverer who will deliver us from the coming wrath and the Church shall not go through that Tribulation period.

- Paul clearly points out: Our helmet which is salvation is the hope of salvation.
  - Salvation implies deliverance, rescue
  - Hope of being delivered; hope of being rescued; hope is divine assurance
  - Hope waits eagerly for something it does not yet have.
  - Hope is a joyful and confident expectation that God will keep His promises.

John 14:2-3 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

Rom. 8:23b-25 but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

- Paul compared the groaning to a woman in travail.  
There is pain while waiting, but the pain will end when the child is delivered.
- One day creation will be delivered and the groaning creation will become a glorious creation.

Consider: The reason we groan is because we have experienced the firstfruits of the Spirit; a foretaste of the glory to come. We have tasted of the Lord and His blessings.

Note: We are waiting for the adoption which is the redemption of the body when Christ comes for us. Phil. 3:20-21 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ: <sup>21</sup> Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself. [Meanwhile, we wait and HOPE.]

Rom. 8:24-25 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

<sup>25</sup> But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

- We have a hope of something even though we are already saved.
- Hope is an expectation for something future. Hope is future faith.

When you are in spiritual battle, you must have on the hope or expectation of salvation.

- Take the battlefield with the hope of a future salvation.

Rom. 13:11 And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed [past tense].

- It is the hope of this salvation [future] which is nearer to us now that we must take as we battle if we are to battle well.
- We have not yet experienced the full and final totality of salvation.
- We will be saved in the future in a way we are not presently saved.

Consider: If he is referring to a salvation that is nearer than when I first believed, he is referring to a salvation I do not yet currently possess.

There is something coming that we don't yet possess. It is the hope of that which keeps us going in the battle.

In The NT, Hope is usually connected with God or Jesus Christ and His promises.

- Hope is a confident assurance that guards the mind in troubling times.
- Hope is a confident expectancy, and the absolute assurance of all God has in store for me in the future.

Key Point: The helmet of salvation is the absolute assurance that God will be faithful to bring our salvation to its full and complete fulfillment. I am secure. I am certain it will happen.

My hope is in the person of Jesus Christ.

Key Point: Jesus is the author of salvation.

Heb. 2:10 For it became Him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Key Point: Jesus is the author of eternal salvation.

Heb. 5:9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

Be Joyful: There Is Wonderful Joy Ahead! A Hope That Keeps Us Going

I Pet. 1:3-5 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,<sup>4</sup> To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,<sup>5</sup> Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

I Pet. 1:6-9 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

- As Christians, we are to expect suffering and trials. Suffering is necessary.

<sup>7</sup>That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

- God wants our faith to grow. Suffering is one of the best stimulants to that growth.
- Suffering purifies and strengthens our faith, making it more precious than fine gold.
- In the final analysis, our proven faith glorifies God.

<sup>8</sup> Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see Him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: [joy: gladness not based on my circumstances]

<sup>9</sup> Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

Heb. 12:1b-2 and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

I Pet. 1:13 Wherefore gird up [prepare] the loins of your mind, be sober, and [set your] hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

- Our present experience of suffering will translate to a future glory.
- Rejoice because suffering is a part of a divine process which results in the salvation of our souls.

The believer does not focus on today's sufferings; he focuses on tomorrow's glory.

Rom. 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

II Cor. 4:16-18 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup> For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

<sup>18</sup> While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Titus 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ;

II Timothy 4:6-8 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Paul had the vision. He valued his salvation highly and diligently fought the good fight.

He was able to say with complete confidence that he would receive the crown.

When Paul awakes in the first resurrection, he will trade in his soldier's helmet for a far more glorious, imperishable and eternal crown of righteousness—the crown of a victorious soldier of Jesus Christ.