

Armour of God

Salvation: The Armour of God “Suit Up”

This spiritual substance called “Salvation” is related to Righteousness; but is proactive in its practical outworking: “I was Saved, I am being Saved; I will be Saved” Past, Present and Future!!

For Generations of Christ followers; They called the second coming of Christ “The Blessed Hope”. I.E. the hope of all hopes was there was an eternity with Christ that was in their future that far exceeded life on this earth. Especially those who were persecuted for their faith! What helped them to hold on, to keep their faith, to not give in or give up!

Ephesians 6:17 “**And take the helmet of salvation**” Paul pictures this word salvation as the armour that protects the head. Just as faith and Love protect the heart, God has not left our minds unprotected.

1 Thessalonians 5:8 “**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.**”

Paul adds an additional word to the picture of armour as he writes to the Thessalonian church, the word is “HOPE”. The helmet of Hope! Which is designed to help the mind.

A phrase that I have used through the years is “hope keeps the mind steady while faith is on trial.” **Hebrews 6:11-12** “**And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end., so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.**”

The assurance of hope of salvation, that God has a full plan that he is working out that is filled with glory and wonder, for eternity. IN the meantime we are here on earth, where God is patiently working out his wonderful plan! Hope of Salvation for our bodies to receive a new body that is like our Lord’s body that does not suffer decay and disease. A hope that is powerful

Verse 18-20 “**so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain. Where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek**”

1. **The Helmet: Assurance:** This is so important because in standing against the Evil One; His aim will often be in our minds to sow doubt and discouragement. Knowing and having a strong assured hope, helps us in the trial to keep steady.
2. **The Helmet: Anchor:** The present tense of hope helping us in our present is the picture in **Hebrew 6: 19** “an Anchor of the soul” It provides us with an ability to appropriate measure things, such as circumstances: “In the light of eternity”
3. **The Helmet: Activates:** us in continuous serving. While we work out our salvation, our thought life is being guarded by the fact that we are a work in progress, that we aren’t condemned; but we have been made right with God, and this righteousness will be fully outworked throughout my life, for a life in eternity with our glorious God, and saviour Jesus Christ.

1 John 3: 1-3 “**See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.**”

Changepoint.