

THE ARMOR OF GOD

"The Helmet of Salvation"

Eph 6:13-16

13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,

15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. (NIV)

Before we proceed from this point, let's review some salient points. First, the Greek word for "put on (NIV)" or "take unto you (KJV)" is analabete. The verb is in the imperative mood, which means that it is a command, and in the aorist tense, which means a one time occurrence in the past. The impact of this is that we are to put on the armor of God once and for all. We are never to take it off.

Second, let us remember that it is the armor of God. As Romans 13 declares, this is putting on (also in the aorist tense) the armor of light, or being clothed with the Lord Jesus Christ. It is spiritual armor for a spiritual conflict. Thus we have:

The belt of truth

The breastplate of righteousness

The preparation of the Gospel of peace

The shield of faith

The spirit of truth (John 14:17)

Christ is our righteousness (1 Cor. 1:30)

Gospel preached with power and the Holy Spirit (1 Thes. 1:5)

Faith given by the Spirit (1 Cor. 12:9)

Eph 6:17a "Take the helmet of salvation" (NIV)

Once again, the word take in the Greek is in the aorist imperative. This is a command. And once we have placed this helmet on, we are not to take it off.

The Roman helmet was an amazing piece of equipment. They had the best helmet of the ancient world. While many of the other nations were still using cloth wrappings, leather caps, or simple metal bowls with chain-mail veils, the Roman's helmet was an elaborate amalgamation of materials that offered comprehensive protection to the whole head. The main features of the Roman helmet are the bowl, the neckguard, the cheekpieces, and a browguard. The ridge of the browguard would protect the head from downward blows to the face, thus guarding the eyes. The cheekpieces guarded the sides of the face and helped keep the helmet securely fastened on the head. The weight of the helmet was softened by a lining of sponge overlaid with leather, which gave a good fit and also acted as additional protection.

Topping all this was the crest, a decoration made of feathers or animal hair. Though it is not certain whether all soldiers wore crests on their helmets, or whether they were worn all the time, many helmets found had fittings to allow for their attachment. They did help to mark rank, for

the centurion's crest was worn transverse (ear-to-ear). By the latter end of the fourth century, during which time Vegetius wrote his treatise on the Epitome of Military Science, the legion had abandoned the use of the helmet. It would be nearly a thousand years before Western European warring nations would develop a helmet comparable to its form and effectiveness. With regard to the Roman use (and abandonment of) the helmet, following is a quotation from Vegetius' work.

"Circumstances dictate that we attempt to recount the types of weapons with which recruits were either armed or protected. But the ancient customs have been completely abandoned, for although the example of the Goths, Alans, and Huns has been advantageous for cavalry weapons, infantry continued to be undefended. For, from the foundation of the City [Rome] to the time of the late Gratianus, infantry were equipped with both cuirasses and helmets. But when field training was ended through negligence and laxity, the equipment - which the soldiers seldom put on - began to be seen as heavy. Therefore they first requested the emperor to stop issuing cuirasses, then helmets. So, fighting with unprotected bodies and heads against the Goths, our soldiers were often destroyed by large numbers of archers. And even after so many disasters, when destruction came to many cities, none of these troubles led to the restoration of either cuirasses or helmets. So it is, those who are unprotected in battle, exposed to wounds, do not think of fighting, but of flight . . . A cuirass or helmet seem heavy to an infantryman, perhaps seldom training with, or handling, arms. Yet daily use is not irksome, even if weighed down. But those who could not bear the effort of carrying ancient defensive arms, could, with uncovered bodies, sustain both wounds and fatalities and, more importantly, be captured or certainly betray the state by flight. Thus, for as long as they avoid training and exertion, they are cut too pieces like beasts with the greatest dishonour. For why is the infantry army called a wall by the ancients, if not because javelin-armed legions, behind their shields, veritably gleamed with cuirasses and helmets?"

Vegetius, *Epitoma Rei Militari*, Book I. XX

With the protection of the helmet, we are more confident in battle; more prone to push the fight than worry about saving our own heads. The Lord says that our heads are to be covered with salvation as a helmet. A helmet protects the head. The head happens to be the major processing center of our soul life: reason, memory, intelligence, understanding, emotions (though not solely or totally), and a will.

Let's think about this helmet and what it protects. Its main piece is the bowl, which protects the crown of the head. What is primarily protected by the bowl is the brain. Our thought life is to be under the covering of our salvation.

Rom 8:10-14

10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up

Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.
12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.

13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. (KJV)

The processes of our mind, our entire thinking habit, should be directed and founded on the knowledge that we have been saved from death and given life by the spirit of God. We are to be heavenly minded.

The browguard warded off downward blows to the head. It acted as a protector for the eyes primarily, and also the nose. Scripturally, the nose is used to signify discernment. The eyes, of course, are our vision center.

2 Cor 4:18

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. (KJV)

Our gaze is to be fixed on eternity. Knowing the truth of our salvation, its grace, rewards, and judgments, helps us to keep focused on things that matter, eternal things.

The cheekpieces guarded the jaw line. Having salvation wrapped around our brains helps season our conversations with the salt of eternity.

Col 4:6

Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man. (KJV)

1 Pet 3:15-16

15 But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

16 keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. (NIV)

Understanding what the Lord saved you from and how will equip you to share that knowledge with others in a spirit of meekness and respect. This is to be accomplished while keeping holy (keeping a clear conscience).

The neckguard sometimes took the shape of a billed extension at the back of the helmet. It guarded the soldier from losing his head from a blow from behind or beside.

Col 2:18-20

18 Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions.

- 19 He has lost connection with the Head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.
- 20 Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules: (NIV)

As the KJV states, "not holding the Head." When you lose the Head, you've lost it all. Knowing our Savior, and thus our salvation, guards us against the unseen blow or religious attempts to earn salvation or live a holy life by the power of the flesh.

The armor, as you will recall, is to equip us to stand against the wiles of the devil. What type of wiles would the helmet protect us from?

2 Cor 2:11

Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his **devices**. (KJV)

Thayer's definition-

3540 noema-

- 1) a mental perception, a thought
- 2) an evil purpose
- 3) what thinks, the mind, thoughts or purposes

We avoid Satan getting an advantage over us by not being ignorant of his devices, noema- his thoughts and purposes (the mind games he plays). The verse begins with "lest". What is the context?

2 Cor 2:10

To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ; (KJV)

What is the central theme of salvation, be it the salvation of the spirit of man, the sanctification of the soul of man, or the redemption of the body of man? Forgiveness. How much bitterness and strife would we avoid in life if we kept in clear understanding how much God forgave us and we then walked in forgiveness one to another for Christ's sake?

What I am about to share with you, I share not to exonerate you from the responsibility of a controlled and disciplined thought life ("Bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;" (2 Cor. 10:5b)), but to empower you to actually accomplish it. The armor of God is spiritual armor. The helmet of salvation protects our head and thus our mind. The mind is the major processing center of our soul life and needs to be brought under the subjection of the Holy Spirit. The saving of our souls, i.e. working out our salvation with fear and trembling, is the lifelong pursuit or losing our lives to the Lord Jesus Christ. What we do not generally realize is that when we were born again, we were given a delivered mind.

2 Tim 1:7 (KJV)

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

God gave us the spirit of a sound mind. The Greek word is sophronismos, which has the idea of self-control but at its base means "saved (sozo) thinking (phroneo)". When we were saved, born again, we received the spirit of a sound mind. This was God's intent from the beginning and was integral to the New Covenant.

Jer 31:31-33

- 31 "The time is coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.
- 32 It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD.
- 33 "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. (NIV)

Heb 8:7-13

- 7 For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another.
- 8 But God found fault with the people and said: "The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.
- 9 It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they did not remain faithful to my covenant, and I turned away from them, declares the Lord.
- 10 This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.
- 11 No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.
- 12 For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."
- 13 By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear. (NIV)

He wrote his law into our minds when we were saved just as surely as he wrote it on our hearts. His imprint is on us, heart and soul, signifying the redemption of the purchased possession, our very bodies.

1 Cor 2:9-16

- 9 However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"--
- 10 but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.
- 11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.
- 12 We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.
- 13 This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the

Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.

- 14 The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.
- 15 The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment:
- 16 "For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ. (NIV)

But we have the mind of Christ that he may instruct us is the implied. The walk of salvation is one of decision. We made a decision for Christ when he confessed him as Lord. As we walked the saved life, we have to decide moment by moment to either follow the promptings of our flesh or the directing of his spirit.

Rom 8:5-14

- 5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.
- 6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.
- 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.
- 8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.
- 9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.
- 10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.
- 11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.
- 12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.
- 13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.
- 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. (KJV)

How is it that we can be spiritually minded?

Rom 7:22-25

- 22 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:
- 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.
- 24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?
- 25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin. (KJV)

Via the spirit, God has put his law in our MINDS. We need to follow that mind of God.

Eph 4:23

And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; (KJV)

The word for renewed is in the passive voice and the infinitive mood. It means the spirit of our mind is being acted upon. In this structure, the word means to be renewed and renovated by inward reformation. This takes us back to the word for "take" in Eph. 6:17. It is a form of dechomai. It means to take to one's self what is presented or brought by another. The helmet of salvation, salvation itself, is presented to us by the Lord. By our decisions (shown in our actions) this salvation is manifested forth.

Pneuma (spirit) and noos (mind) show up together in some very interesting places.

1 Cor 14:14-15

14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful.

15 So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind. (NIV)

Rom 8:26-27

26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will. (NIV)

It should not surprise us that prayer in the Spirit should put us in the mind (thought, will, and emotion) of the Spirit.

The helmet of salvation was provided to us in our salvation. God wrote his law in our minds as well as in our hearts. Knowledge of this salvation, experientially, in memory, in Scripture, guards our minds from the attacks of the devil and gives us the freedom of boldness to push the fight and advance the kingdom of God. Salvation is God's crowning work and in warfare it is to be the protection for our crown.

Isa 59:15-21

15 Truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey. The LORD looked and was displeased that there was no justice.

16 He saw that there was no one, he was appalled that there was no one to intervene; so his own arm worked salvation for him, and his own righteousness sustained him.

17 He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head; he put on the garments of vengeance and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak.

18 According to what they have done, so will he repay wrath to his enemies and retribution to his foes; he will repay the islands their due.

19 From the west, men will fear the name of the LORD, and from the rising of the sun, they will revere his glory. For he will come like a pent-up flood that the breath of the LORD drives along.

20 "The Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins," declares the LORD.

21 "As for me, this is my covenant with them," says the LORD. "My Spirit, who is on you, and my words that I have put in your mouth will not depart from your mouth, or from the mouths

of your children, or from the mouths of their descendants from this time on and forever," says the LORD. (NIV)