

Ephesians 6:17

Having and Keeping the Helmet of Salvation Firmly Strapped On

This morning we want to get back to our study on Ephesians, specifically the armor of God. To make sure we put this study in context let's read most of the passage on the armor of God found in **Ephesians 4:10-13, 17a**, **“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything to stand firm. 17 And take up the helmet of salvation.”**

If you are following along in your Bible you know that I have skipped over verses 14-16 where there are a number of pieces of armor that are mentioned. Next week we will back up and talk about those but I wanted to focus upon the helmet of salvation first because if you don't have this piece of equipment firmly in place then it really doesn't matter about the other pieces of equipment does it.

1. Entering into salvation with Jesus Christ is the starting point of our journey with Christ isn't it?

This is the first place that we must stand strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Salvation is the foundation that every part of our life in Christ hinges upon. You cannot build a relationship with the Creator of the universe if you don't have this relationship started and secured in your heart.

This is the place where most of the confirmands have come to today. Some of them have already had spiritual training and have come into a relationship with Christ. For others, they knew about Jesus, learned to love Jesus but they really didn't have much of an understanding of what He was all about and the meaning of the salvation He offers.

The truth is that all of us are still unpacking what Jesus did upon the cross for us aren't we?

In speaking with the church in Philippi, Paul told the Christians there to, **Philippians 2:12b, "...work out your salvation with fear and trembling."**

That was not only true for the believers in Philippi, for the confirmands but for you and me.

2. We are to **work out** our salvation with fear and trembling.

Some of you heard my testimony last week. If you were not able to be here I would recommend you get on our church Facebook page, click on the video tab and listen to it. We are live each week now on Facebook and the services are being recorded there.

One of the things I did not say last week is that I was wonderfully and gloriously saved at the age of 15. It occurred at a youth church camp and I am one of those individuals who remember almost every detail. I remember the presence of the Lord, I remember my prayer, the person who helped me and the wonderful feeling of Christ's presence in my life.

Unfortunately in my case I went back to a broken home where there was no support system and to properly work out my salvation with fear and trembling was near impossible.

I had no encouragement to spend time in the Bible working it out the truth of my salvation so for me, and I think this might be true of a lot of new Christians, my salvation began to be based more upon emotion, my feelings, then the truth of what Christ did in my heart. I did not understand just how important it was firmly strap on the helmet of salvation.

Helmets are important aren't they. They protect us from brain injuries. Some people don't see the need for a helmet and that is fine if you never come face to face with the concrete or a metal car.

Jarrett Haubert back there in the back knows just how important a helmet is. A few weeks ago Jarrett was riding his four-wheeler when he flipped it. Who knows what might have happened if he did not have a helmet on but because his parents insisted that he always have a helmet on when riding his four-wheeler he was saved from a possible brain injury. Sure he picked up some road rash but that is something that will heal. Maybe it will leave a scar but Jarrett also picked up some valuable experience.

When his mom kept insisting that he wear a helmet I have no doubt Jarrett fought it a little bit. A helmet is hot, it doesn't look cool, it messes up his hair, none of my friends wear one and a hundred other excuses of why he shouldn't have to wear a helmet. But I bet that he no longer has doubts of his mom's advice today. In fact, through this lesson, maybe Jarrett has stopped and thought about some of the other advice his mom and dad have given him. Maybe Jarrett is taking what his parents tell him just a little more seriously.

As we listen to the advice from God through Paul, we are told to take up the helmet of salvation that God gives us so we can be strong in the Lord.

3. The helmet of salvation is having the assurance of our salvation.

We need this because we are told that our struggle in this life is not against flesh and blood but against what, who???

What does it say? Read verse 12 with me.

“For our struggle is not against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

There is a wicked force who would have you doubt your salvation and if you are in a place where you vacillate on this issue, then there is no moving ahead in victory in this life.

Challenging you on your relationship with God and Christ is what Satan has done since the beginning of time, since Adam and Eve.

Look with me on how he tempted Adam and Eve.

Genesis 3:1-6, “Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”

² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

⁴ “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.”

We are told that we are not unaware of Satan's schemes and here we see just how Satan twisted the truth and captured the attention of Eve.

What was one of the first things Satan asked Eve?

Did God really say? Satan began his interaction with Eve by questioning what it was God really said. Eve got it right but as she listened to Satan, to his questioning of God, she took her eyes off of the truth and allowed her flesh, her emotions, her thoughts, the thoughts Satan planted in her head, she allowed them to take root to the point she began acting on them.

Look at verse 6. **“When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom...”**

Eve listened to the lie, her eyes turned and she saw, she thought about it...then she took action. This is how

4. Satan can plant doubt and temptation in our minds. He will take a truth and twist it just enough that it makes sense to our human mind.

Instead of living by faith in what God has said is true we begin to reason, examine the truths we find in the Bible with our human mind until we come to the conclusion they might not be true.

And Satan plays a part in this as well.

5. Satan uses the times when we are the most vulnerable.

This is when he whispers lies and half-truths in our head.

I have an acronym that describes our greatest times of vulnerability. I have it listed in your bulletin.

Halt. When you are really hungry, angry, lonely and tired.

Satan knows when your body or your soul is weak. He know this is the best time for him to plant seeds of doubt into your heart.

But we are not unaware of his schemes are we? We know he tells us half-truths, lies, so we prepare ourselves with the truth, the truth we find in God's word and the truth God shares with us. And we keep the truth in front of us at all times. This is what it means to put on the helmet of salvation and to keep it firmly strapped on our heads, protecting our brain, our thoughts.

What happens to a person if they experience an extreme head injury? If they don't die what are some of the things that might occur due to a head injury.

They could be impaired in some way couldn't they. Some people who have experienced a head injury have been reduced into a state where they are not aware of their surroundings anymore. They no longer know people or even how to function in life.

I am afraid there are a lot of Christians who live their lives in a state where they have not realized and used the power of God in their lives. They may have been truly saved but Satan has fed them so many lies that they doubt their salvation. They have not kept the helmet of salvation firmly strapped on their heads to protect from the lies of the enemy.

It is by faith that we are saved. Faith in the work God says occurs when we come to Him and accept the work of His Son Jesus. We stand on the promises of God's Word. Not just His written word we read in the Bible. You can read this Bible and not get anything but head knowledge from

it. When the assurance of your salvation occurs is when you really dig in and begin to question God about the reality of what it says in this book.

Jarrett knew about the helmet. On some levels he knew it was a good idea for him to wear it. He probably had heard some stories of what happened to those who were not wearing a helmet and they crashed. He knew it with his head but if all he ever did was look at the helmet sitting up on the shelf it wouldn't do him any good if he had a crash would it?

The same is true about the truths we find in God's Word. We can know them mentally. We can say that their true and even believe them some but do we really know them? Do you really know them in the depths of your heart?

When we spend time with God in His Word really looking for answers then something wonderful happens. This written book becomes the living word. It comes alive. God begins to reveal Himself and His truths directly to your heart. This is when the power of God begins to operate. This is when you are able to stand firm in the strength of His power.

Let me give you some scriptures to ponder, pray over and ask God to reveal the truths of to you. Not just knowing with your head but knowing deep down in your heart because God says directly to you that they are true. They are what He promises. They are from Him.

John 1:12, "But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God..."

John 3:36, "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life."

Romans 10:13. "For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

John 5:24, "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life."

John 6:47, “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. “

Acts 2:21, “And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Acts 16:30-31, “Then he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved...”

Romans 10:9, “Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

2 Corinthians 5:21, “For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”

Romans 10:10 “For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”

Ephesians 2:8, “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God...”

Ephesians 4:30, “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”

Titus 3:5, “He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit...”

These are just a few of the truths from God we find in His word. Like me, some of you may need to dwell, ponder, pray and allow God to reveal to your heart that yes, these are truth. This did occur in my life not matter what Satan says, no matter what I am feeling, no matter that I have fallen and keep falling and Satan and others use this to beat me up, to keep me from believing the truth.

This is one of the ways we can put on and firmly strap on the helmet of salvation God makes available to us.

The helmet of salvation. It is the beginning of our walk with God and the beginning of our battle with Satan and the dark, evil realm he has put in place.

Next week we will look at the importance of the breastplate of righteousness. All the different pieces of spiritual armor God makes available to us are to help us be strong in the Lord and in the strength of might.

This is where God wants us to be in relationship with Him. This is where we want to be amen?