

The Full Armour of God - Salvation-Past, Present and Future

Let's remind ourselves of what should be a familiar text ...

Ephesians 6:14-17 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness arrayed, and with your feet fitted with the readiness of the gospel of peace.

in addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Introduction - Today we start the part of our series which concentrates on the Helmet of Salvation.

Matthew 10:28 “Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell”

1. **Salvation in the past:** We **have been saved** from the **penalty** of Sin.

Ephesians 2:8-9 Titus 3:5-7.

2. **Salvation in the Present:** We **are being saved** from the **power** of sin.

Philippians 2:12-13 Romans 6:11-14 2 Corinthians 3:18

3. **Salvation in the future:** We **will be saved** from the **presence** of sin.

Romans 13:11 Philippians 3:20-21 Revelation 21:1-4

1. Salvation in the past: Ephesians 2:8-9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God not by works, so that no one can boast.

Because of the power of the cross, our enemy no longer has any hold on us. He also knows that most of God's children do not know that - or, at least, they do not live as if they know.

Titus 3:5-7 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.

He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

The apostle Paul reminds us in Titus 3:5-7 that we cannot earn our salvation through our own actions or good deeds.

2. Salvation in the Present: Philippians 2:12-13 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed - not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence - continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfil his good purpose.

In this passage, Paul lovingly tells us both divine enablement and human responsibility are involved in getting God's work done.

Salvation in the past assures us that God's promises are not an afterthought – they have always been there.

1 Corinthians 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them - yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.

Paul encourages believers to use urgency and persistence in our Christian walk as it is always for our best interest.

Romans 6:11-12 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.

The Apostle Paul bids us to reflect on our identity and relationship with sin and God.

2 Corinthians 3:18 And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

This profound truth shapes our identity as followers of Christ.

It talks about the **transformative** power of knowing God and seeing His glory.

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Being transformed. That is salvation in the present. Amen

3. Salvation in the future:

Romans 13:11 - The Day Is Near -

and do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

Paul insists it's time to wake up from our spiritual snooze.

The “**salvation**” to which Paul refers in 11b is God’s completion of our rescue. It’s the complete freedom God will someday give us, and we will enjoy. To love God above all and our neighbour as ourselves.

This rescue will occur, says the apostle, at the return of Jesus Christ.

That’s a reason Paul can say this rescue is (“nearer”) than when we’d first (“believed”).

1 Corinthians 15:22-24 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power.

Philippians 3:20-21 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

The phrase “who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control,” underscores Jesus’ supreme authority over all creation. In today’s world, where identity often hinges on nationality or social status.

Philippians 3:20-21 resonates profoundly. It reminds us that our primary identity rests in Christ, transcending earthly distinctions.

Revelation 21:1-4 - A New Heaven and a New Earth -

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.

I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them.

They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’”

Conclusion – Let us remind our selves of the journey we have travelled today ... The past is always relevant – The present is a union between us and God – The Future is a promise assured.

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