

## 05-22-2024 Lessons from the Berry Patch #6 A Good Hat

When you get out there in the Berry Patch on a sunny day, you can get a good sunburn on the back of your neck while you are looking down and sorting through the berry vines. Nothing can mess up a good berry picking day like having sunburned necks, faces and ears. Yep, you need a good hat.

The Lord reminds us that, as Christians, we need a good hat as well. It is called the Helmet of Salvation. Let's read about it in Ephesians 6:17:

<sup>17</sup> Put on salvation as your helmet<sup>NLT</sup>

I've lived my working life on construction sites. All kinds of construction sites; in chemical plants, refineries, fabrication shops, offshore oil construction sites, oilfield sites, wind farms, river barges, seaports and who knows what else. One thing all those places have in common is a focus on SAFETY.

The list of safety gear is pretty standard--- steel-toed boots, safety glasses, long sleeves and long pants, work gloves, hearing protection and a hard hat. Some jobsites require extra safety gear. If you don't have proper safety gear, most jobsites won't even let you through the gate. It is not fun explaining to the boss why you didn't get into the jobsite and missed a days work!

Today, let's talk about those hard hats. They are critical for safety. We can take injuries to most parts of our bodies and survive them. Injuries to the head are more difficult to recover from, if you survive. Several times in my career, I was saved from a head injury because I was wearing my hard hat.

Those hard hats have an additional, important function. They are canvasses for all the stickers that you get. Hard hat stickers are hot commodities. Most companies have stickers. Many jobsites have specific stickers for that particular site. If you've got lots of stickers on your hard hat, people know that you have been around.

When we talk about the Kingdom of Heaven, we have our "helmet of salvation" and it has only one big sticker: "Jesus is my Lord." OK, so I made that last part up...

1 Thessalonians 5:8 says it this way:

<sup>8</sup> But let us who live in the light be clearheaded, protected by the armor of faith and love, and wearing as our helmet the confidence of our salvation. <sup>NLT</sup>

As followers of Jesus, we have enemies – three are commonly mentioned: the world, the flesh and the devil. There are more... These enemies attack us at our weakest points. 1) Does God really love a rascal like you? 2) You've made too many mistakes, blown it too many times. 3) The Lord gave up on you a long time ago...

All of these are lies. How do we combat lies? With Truth.

So we protect ourselves from those accusing thoughts with the confidence that God loves us, Jesus died for us and we have an eternal home with Our Father in Heaven. The confidence of the Helmet of Salvation.

Wear it everyday out there in The Berry Patch!



This is my hard hat. I've had it along time. We have seen a lot of territory in our careers. It saved me from many bumps and bruises.