

Helmet Of Salvation And Sword Of The Spirit

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Go ahead and turn with me into the book of Ephesians chapter 6. Ephesians chapter 6. And we will be in verse 17 this evening. Ephesians 6:17. We will be covering the helmet of salvation and sword of the spirit.

This will be in chapter 6 verse 17. I will read it. Now and take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit which is the word of God. May God bless the reading of his word.

God provides the helmet of salvation to protect our mind. The source of where all our thoughts are the seat of all of our thoughts. Now this salvation is an unwavering reality. When God saves us, he saves us once and for all, which is a gift of God. And we'll see this in Ephesians chapter 2. So just hold your place there. Flip back to chapter 2. I'm just going to read verses 5 and 8 to make this point clear. This unwavering reality of our salvation.

It says this beginning with verse 5. Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, by grace ye are saved, and hath raised us up together and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. That in the ages to come, he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves. It is the gift of God. Notice how grace is repeated there three times to make it extra clear. It is by his grace that this gift of God, the salvation of our souls in Christ Jesus.

It's clear that our salvation does not depend on human effort. It is a guaranteed truth that enables us as believers to stand firm against the adversary with confidence.

The other means is the sword of the spirit that we see in this text which is the word of God. And we're just going to be touching high level first big picture that with this helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit of God that it is here in the text. Notice it is by the power of the spirit.

The Lord Jesus shows how to use the word of God at the temptation in the desert. We see this clearly illustrated in Matthew chapter 4 beginning in verse one which I will not go into at this time. But you will see again and again the Lord Jesus Christ defeating the devil's tricks with the word of God. He starts always with it is written and then everything else works its course for the enemy to go to the next attack.

That doesn't only mean that we are to just learn to know God's word better. That's not the point, but that you also know how and when to use the word of God. And by the way, it's not just about

simply quoting scripture, but you believe the word of God to be true in your own life. So only a true believer would understand this part. That is the spirit of God that has ultimately revealed the truth of scripture. And namely that the Lord Jesus Christ gives us him. He is the truth. Right? I am the way, the truth. Amen.

So let us look now at the helmet of salvation in greater depth. So we are going to see that our present salvation is like a helmet. Protects our minds when we're in the middle of a spiritual battle. That's what the purpose of this helmet is for. is designed to deliver us from evil.

And the and all the graces that the Apostle Paul says the ideal warrior is equipped with are actually part of the blessings that come with being saved. That's why the helmet of salvation. And the more we are truly assured and know that we possess the salvation of God, the better protected we'll be from temptations that try to stir up our desires, our fleshly desires. And all of our fears won't be able to push us into sin and worldly evils that will appeal to our passions will lose their grip on us. It depends on how much we know that we are saved in Christ.

As apostle Paul in another letter written to the Corinthians chose to make the crucified Jesus Christ the sole focus of his teaching. He rejected worldly wisdom when it came to standing in front of his people and members of the Corinthian church. He didn't rely not only on worldly wisdom but not eloquent speech which he was capable of doing but he said nope not going to use that in front of the people of God. Neither was he weak to share philosophy which he knew a lot of. He put that aside but rather his main emphasis was the power and the sufficiency of the cross for our salvation. relying on the Holy Spirit, not on human intellect to reveal God's truth and build the saints and then their faith as he said, "For I determined not to know anything among you save Jesus Christ and him crucified." 1 Corinthians 2:2.

He's signified in this commitment to preaching about the person of Christ. That is a doctrine, by the way. and he wanted to focus in, double down on the redemptive work on the cross as the core message that he was to preach at that church. And because the only way God's power was going to flow through the local body was preaching this very message of salvation.

And if we keep our minds focused on these things, all that he has saved us from, think about it. If you've been living a Christian life now as much as I have been, he has saved me from a lot of sins. He has saved me from a lot of things that I could have gone way off course has. And you know that. And so the more you live as a Christian life, the more you can see what he has saved you from. And it gives you greater confidence to go forward with that understanding focusing that we already have everything in Christ. He is doing the saving work.

And ultimately that we have this awesome privilege that we are no longer enemies of God, but that we can actually please him with our works to blow us just blow away any things of the flesh to know that we can please God our father who watches over everything and everything that we do. And this was what guards us against the evil attacks of the enemy.

That is a way to illustrate a full cup in him in God's fullness has no room for the enemy to pour in poison. And that's how we should always picture our lives. Are we really spending much time with him through his word? already thinking about how much you want to please God because

he's given us a heart to do so and just being enthusiastic and joyful knowing that you have these opportunities to do that.

So when you're fully aware of this sort of delight in God's gift that he has given to us first upon our salvation and then the repeated work that he's doing in our lives to bring the good things of his character upon our lives that in itself can destroy the enemy's ways of destroying our path that he has put us on what God has put us on. He won't be able to put these landmines in our lives and they won't bother us. We have a future that we long for and we already possess and it's in its beginning stages. There's still a lot for us to overcome, but we're doing it in his power. We're doing it in his strength and it prevents us from being tempted in the bad sense of the word that appeals to our flesh because we're living on the spiritual plane that is upward and forward as we sung this evening.

Here's another way of honing down on this about what it is to see sin for what it is. You know, sin's allure is a deceptive promise of pleasure, isn't it? It's deceptive in that way, which it never fulfills. It ultimately never fulfills. The core lie is the belief that happiness requires sin. That's what Satan tells you, doesn't he? You'll be happy if you do this sin. But sin is fundamentally ugly, not beautiful, and can never bring true joy.

You see, our inherent nature is drawn to this ugliness, preferring darkness over light. Ultimately, through our sin, we desecrate God's glory. This is sin's function to corrupt the beautiful into the ugly. And this is the truth that God gives to us that we can recognize this to be true. You see, that's what we were brought out from. Amen. We see sin for what it is. It's ugly. And then we see God's glory as beautiful. And we want to maintain the beauty of God's glory.

It's not enough just to see the truth of God. But we got to see the glory of God, the beauty of God. And when you do that, you are just soaking in his goodness and his love towards you and you're able to in that place see sin for what it is. It's staying in the light. Amen.

So the gospel, the good news is meant to be received in this way. Not a command to do this or that, but an invitation to receive salvation from Christ. And look at that word. It says, "Take the helmet." Which here it's better interpreted and in the original language, receive the helmet. At least in this portion of scripture is to receive the helmet. It is a gift. He offers it to us.

And so Paul addresses the believers who have already had the initial faith, the faith that God has given to us to be united with Christ and receive his salvation. And with this understanding, the exhortation is continuously understand how good the salvation is. Continue to receive upon this foundational truth that every believer has in them. They have Christ.

And with that we have God's unwavering love towards us. We have Christ's allsufficient sacrifice that helps us to die to ourselves in our daily walk. And nothing can grip us more than that. Amen. That we have this upward and again forward life which he shares with those who ultimately abide in him.

So if our lives show no increasing conformity to Christ, another way of looking at this is we have significant cost to question whether we truly experience salvation in the past or have any grounds to expect a complete salvation in the future when we ultimately see Christ face to face.

The idea is we are to increasingly in our salvation being saved know all that we have in Christ and anticipating that we will one day have this perfect future with confidence that you're building upon this upon the memory of the past of what he has done in the clear initial acceptance of Christ and that your experience in the present that he is constantly saving you from all types of sin in your life and that he's making you more and more holy as a process that this hope will not disappoint you that you know that God is doing this work in your life and even amongst us in this body that may be weak at times and not remind yourselves of these truths that God is working in and through you that in the context of Christian experience can trust that he does have this in mind.

Whether you think of it or not, he has this in mind for every child of God that things are going to be better for you ultimately. That when you have an understanding of this great tomorrow as it says shall be as this day as much more abundant.

In the meantime, we are to meditate such as in the verse Lamentations 3:22-23, which is a wonderful reminder which shows us that God's love and compassion are constantly renewing our mind and offering us fresh hope and strength for today. No matter what might have happened in the past, whatever struggles that you are going through in the past, this is what it says in verse 22. It is of the Lord's mercy that we are not consumed. Amen. Because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning. Great is thy faithfulness.

It's not based on our faithfulness ultimately. It is based on his faithfulness. Amen. Towards us. This is what salvation being saved means. Imperfect now, yes. but promising unimaginable glory in its future completeness for every single one of you as a believer here this evening.

And we can then with this understanding we can face the conflicts of this world because we are secure in this understanding of God who covers our head in the day of battle of helping us remember of what it means to be saved. What it means the salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Because without such a defense, without the gospel working in your heart and your mind this way, we are vulnerable to the attacks just as sure to be defeated. But in it, every believer is living out their salvation. Though the helmet may be dented, the head will ultimately be protected by the one who has put it on you. You will remain unharmed.

When the battle noises is passed, the helmet will be set aside one day and we will all be able to declare in 2 Timothy 4:7-8, "I have fought a good fight. I have finished my course. I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day. And not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." One day that's going to happen. One day.

Now, let's go to the sword of the spirit, which is the final and only offensive, by the way, piece of the armor. The word of there of this phrase signifies the sword's origin much like we see in the armor of God meaning it is a weapon supplied by the spirit.

So obviously as a believer we have the holy spirit living within us and he gives us the ability to use the sword of the spirit correctly. Now this differs from the shield of faith or helmet of

salvation where of indicates a position which is meaning that a spiritual quality corresponds to a physical piece of the armor.

You'll see here it's different. It puts in there, you see in the text in verse 17, the sword of the spirit which is the word of God. Nowhere else do you see that way of explanation to reassuring that it is of the spirit that helps us to wield the word of God correctly.

See, as a believer, that's now a possibility. Before, as an unbeliever, we couldn't have done it correctly. We could have this memorized. We could know everything in detail. But what would it matter if the truth is not living in us? And as believers, we have the truth in us. The spirit helping us to live out the truth with integrity because we have Christ as our example. Amen.

The sword is placed in the hand of the Christian to be used. We are to use the word of God.

Now in Hebrews 1 verse two to explain what the word of God is to the Christian, it says this in verse one, God who at sundry times and in diverse manner spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets hath in these last days spoken unto us by his son whom he hath appointed heir of all things by whom also he made the worlds.

This text is very important in this way that God communicated through the prophets at various times and in different ways as recorded in this text in the New Testament. However, we now live in what's called the last days. That's ever since Christ came here on earth. The last days have begun. And God has spoken definitively through his son Jesus Christ from that point on.

And this highlights that Jesus supreme authority and role as the ultimate revelation of God far surpassing that of the early prophets. By the way, all of them were pointing to the Messiah. And Jesus is the heir of all things and through him the universe was made.

That's important for us because as Christians we have this great truth living on this side as it were of the New Testament where it's much clearer than the old because Christ has come in his first coming. We know who he is. We know his model that he lived out for us. They could only see by faith a picture of him. But we see him visually in scriptures. And so we have greater confidence. We have greater clarity.

And so the early Christians and the apostle had no hesitation in taking that sacred name, the word of the Lord to describe the message which they spoke. One of their earlier prayers when they were left alone was grant unto thy servants that with all boldness they may speak thy word. Acts 4:29.

And we see throughout the whole book of Acts of the apostles that they preach the gospel always designating as the word of God. And even as Peter in his epistle quotes puts it this way, he quotes Isaiah 40 which says this the grass wither the flower fade but the word of our God shall stand forever. And the way he declares that is the word of God Lord endureth forever and this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you. That's first Peter 1:25.

So we see here the word of God is referring to the Lord Jesus Christ and the gospel. And then Paul's exhortation to the Ephesians here to the Christians is clearly a command to wield the

gospel message. The very words they heard from him and other preachers as the sword of the spirit was associated that the Christians whenever we are to teach or with using the sword of the spirit.

Paul demonstrates his view of the old and new as a unified whole. And for him the proclamation of the Lord Jesus represents the fulfillment and perfection of the truths previously spoken by the prophets in the Old Testament.

So with all that said, it brings us to understanding that the word of God is every word in this book.

So the purpose and the power of the word is that the sword has a distinct offensive weapon. It's and it's only the weapon that we need because Paul could have illustrated the other weapon that the soldiers would have and carry with them which is a spear. But yet he doesn't use that illustration. He only uses the sword.

And then he says that this is the weapon that you are to use primarily which for us as Christians that is our primary weapon. That's the only way to defeat the enemy to stand against him.

And so the word of God is the only weapon necessary serving as the believer's sword of the spirit which is infinitely mightier than anything Satan can deploy. Nothing can go against the word of God, not even him.

And Satan attacks loves to be aggressive to dismantle us from not using the word of God. And so we must always be aware of how his strategy is to not using the word of God. And so with that understanding, we must have an enduring truth that it is scripture that helps us to progress in our battles.

A possible parallel and perhaps a direct reference to our text here can be found in Hebrews where the word of God is described similarly. For the word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. That's Hebrews 4:12.

Here, I just want to lift up a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. This is essentially the why behind our actions. God shows and reveals why certain things are happening in your life. All the actions must be judged by the word of God. It is the true discernor and which reveals our hidden motives. It exposes whether our intentions are generally sincere or if we are concealing a secret desire. He will reveal all of that with his word.

And as we cannot forget the symbolism, Revelation 1:16 says this. Out of the mouth of Jesus went a sharp twoedged sword. There's the parallel there that the word of Christ embodied this image has a penetrating power that aligns us with his teachings.

Though it is gracious and healing, which is the gospel of peace, as I mentioned earlier this morning, it also possesses a sharpness that cuts through human error and exposes the thoughts and intents of the heart.

And the revelation of Christ serves purpose beyond ministering consolation and hope, which yes, the gospel does provide. But in battle, we must also remember that is essential in our battle to fight against evil. Not only without, but within. It's a double-edged sword. It cuts both ways.

And Isaiah 11:4 says, "With the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked," which applies to the effect of Christ's word on evil. The slaying is in fact the flip side of the lifegiving power of the word on the receptive heart. It cuts both ways in this way that it a responsive receptive heart of the believer. It works for good. But the same sword slays the wicked. We know that this is the word of God.

And so for the Christian fighting evil, whether it threatens our personal spiritual health or holds others in bondage, the sword of the spirit is the most potent weapon for both cases.

So understanding the reality that God loves us through the Lord Jesus Christ and our affections grow more and more towards loving Christ, all the things that you can't see will completely overshadow the things that you can. meaning that the spiritual reality that Christ loves us that no matter how it may be, how disappointing it may be that you're not receiving the same kind of love that Christ offers to you because only him can offer a consistent kind of love, that unwavering love.

It helps us to then minister, doesn't it? consistently if we are close to the heart of Christ because the seriousness of eternal things will make the temporary things look like the true unreality that it actually is and the reality of Christ and his love towards the lost become the reality.

And if you humbly accept and generally use the implanted word, it is truly the solid test against our own sins. It will constantly help us to gauge where we are at in our relationship with the Lord and not fall into mistakes of sinning against him because it's his word that is with us as a receptive heart that is being implanted in and it's flourishing in our lives.

Again, that is a quality of every believer here. He's given us a receptive heart that the word of God will bear good fruit. Amen. And so if you accept it in this way, God can do amazing things in your life and you will see it for yourself.

And only the implanted word can be measured as pure as possible. You know, in the physical world, we have scales to measure their purity, and they're graded at different carrots or quality of the stone. But the word of God is pure. Every single word, think about it. We don't have to guess. We know. We know it's the pure word of God.

And we receive it as the pure word of God, not just upon our salvation, but for throughout our lives in this thing we call the world. And all the things that are corrupted, we have something that is pure and is good and holy. And that will never mess up your mind, never corrupt your conscience. That is for sure.

Now I want us to look at the manner of its use. The command to receive this is important in a way that helps us to understand what we're receiving. Again, it's the sword of the spirit.

And when you are holding a sword, again, Paul was looking at how the soldier was modeled using these spiritual applications. And a sword is to be grasped. If you don't grasp it, it's of no use.

And so receiving the sword of the spirit is the idea of the grasp is like deepening the truth of the word of God. Just like the soldier that's holding on tightly in the battle, how are you deepening yourself in the word of God? Is that truth gripping you and grasping your soul in such a profound way that it helps you to stay anchored no matter what type of battle situation you're in? Have you felt that? Do you recognize that more and more when you're in the thick of the battle?

That's the illustration of this receiving aspect of it. It's nuanced to the level of how you are firmly anchored, deeply rooted in the word of God.

Our preparedness for spiritual conflict hinges entirely understanding this gift that God has given to us. He offers it over and over and over and over again to use the sword of the spirit.

So, it's not a passive event. But it's divine grace pouring into us every day, every moment that we're in a battle. And we are commanded by Paul to take this piece of the armor. However, emphasizing taking too strongly or receiving minimizes again the divine action.

I don't want you to think this is a human thing. It is again God giving this God giving his word and we are to simply trust in his word in the battle. That's the process that he wants us to ultimately understand that it is of God's grace. It is of his gift that he freely offers this part of the armor. It's not earned. It's not a favor that we produce in ourselves.

I love the expression without money and without price in the scriptures. We can't buy this, we can't earn this. It's offered freely and it's dependent on how often we use it, how active we are in reaching out into the word of God and receiving it.

So there is that part of our lives in our struggles that you find greater and greater place to be planted and firmly rooted and able to advance in your daily struggles each and every day.

this engrafted word of God truly should govern our lives and take a lifelong commitment in this knowing that this is a practice that we are to continue to produce in our lives and let our minds be soaked and our hearts more fully affectioned of God's will in our life and bring us more into situations where we can take on the word of God and use it in our battle and then have greater confidence that he will help us through every situation.

This is the one thing if you can reflect on because a weakness in the Christian struggle against all forms of evil whether personal or whether it's dealt with in society where we reside in or whether it's of intellectual where thoughts come in and attack these all are due to the half-hearted way that professing Christians wield the sword of the spirit that they allow all these things to take over and control instead letting the word of God take control of their lives.

And so may we position ourselves in a way that we grasp this reality of this part of the armor and that would take heed to the word of God. Like it says in second Peter 1:19, we have also a more

sure word of prophecy, where unto you do well that ye take heed as unto a light that shineth in a dark place until the day dawn and the day star rise in your hearts.

This is a fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy in Jesus that offers us the kind of reliability that will not shake us in the world that is dark around us that it constantly shines upon our lives and our hearts. this truth that God confirms his plan upon our lives that he wants us to continue to fight this endeavor to fight this good fight of faith to pay attention that this course is where God has placed us in that you will have the certainty and this assurance that he is guiding you until Christ returns.

May this truth be set in your hearts until he does. Amen.

Let us pray. Father, I thank you for your word that helps us to cultivate a heart where we use your word of God in our daily struggles in our lives. And help us Lord that you help us Lord to have the understanding through the spirit of God showing us how to use it. But help us, God, to constantly depend upon you. That we would show each other these great truths in our own families.

That we would see what you have all for us with the use of the armor of God and all these parts that Lord that I have preached from. I pray God that it would help each and one of us in making sure that we are fighting the good fight of faith and that we will be able to finish this course full well for the reward that Christ has for us upon his return.

Lord, I pray that we would do that whether he returns or whether we meet him before then. Help us to be assured of this truth that God your word is pure and sharper than any two-edged sword and that it is a discernor of our thoughts and of our hearts. Help us, Father, to trust that the battle within and the battle without that you will help us through each and one of them. And we thank you in Jesus name. Amen.