

Put on the Full Armor of God

By Pastor Brian Gibbs

As we approach the end of this fast and our theme for this week, “Putting On the full Armor of God”, I want to go back to a particular piece of armor—the helmet of salvation (Ephesians 6:17).

I remember playing in the junior football league as a kid. Our coach would yell out to the team, “Strap that helmet down tight. Let’s go!”

At times, in the natural, a helmet can seem limiting or even annoying. It may disrupt your view or even make your head hurt. On the alternative side, it could save your life. It’s an extra layer of protection that can give you confidence in the face of danger.

When the Apostle Paul referred to the helmet of salvation in a letter to the church of Ephesus, life was no picnic for his audience. They lived in a culture hostile to their faith. In those days, the helmet was the final piece of armor put on by soldiers, but it was arguably the most important piece.

If your mind, eyes, and ears aren’t protected, chances of survival can seem impossible. That’s why God gives us what we need to help fight the battles of life.

The helmet in the armor of God protects the head or the mind. If salvation is working in our hearts and lives, then our minds will be renewed. If our minds are renewed, we will not continue to think the way we did or the way the world does. If there is not a substantial difference between the way we think and the way those who do not know Christ think, then we have somehow aborted the crucial process of having our minds renewed. The renewing of our mind requires continual discipline in exposing our eyes, thoughts, and minds to a lifestyle of being in the Word and applying it daily for victory.

Even when our minds have been renewed, they require continual protection. This is what the helmet of salvation is for. It is the salvation that we have received that protects our minds. Salvation is so profound and such a dramatic contrast to our former life and way of thinking, that from the time we are born again the cross should be the one standard and boundary that determines what we allow in our minds or not.

Silver speaks of redemption in Scripture, as Israel had to pay a half shekel of silver for their redemption (Exodus 30:15). Also, the price that was given for Jesus was paid in silver. It is noteworthy that the acacia wood posts that upheld the white linen fabric that enclosed the outer court of the Tabernacle of Moses had silver bases and silver caps. The white linen curtain represented God’s righteousness, and the acacia wood pillars were a prophetic picture of how those who are called to uphold God’s righteousness stood on redemption, and their heads were covered with redemption.

Many wrongly think that because they have their standing on the redemption of the Cross that it does not matter what they do or think. How we steward our thoughts matters greatly. However, if we are truly standing on the redemption of the cross so as to uphold the righteousness of God, it will cover our minds as well, and will be demonstrated by how we think. As we are told in Proverbs 23:7: “For as he thinks within himself, so he is” (NASB).

If we are going to wear the whole armor of God, the helmet is one of the crucial pieces. Do we protect our minds with the salvation of God? Do we allow the cross to determine what we read, watch on television or the internet, or the conversations that we listen to? As we are told in Galatians 6:7–8: “Do not be deceived: God is not mocked; for whatever one sows, that he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life” (ESV).

As the great apostle Paul stated so well in Philippians 4:8 (NASB):

Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

In a world gone crazy, anchor and protect your mind in these things that Paul magnifies. And remember to set your mind on things above, not on earthly things, because this is where our true lives are.

I pray this fast has been a powerful and beautiful gift for you as you have pursued the Lord with your whole heart. Put on the full armor of God.

Let's close together here with Ephesians 6:10-18 (NKJV).

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 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. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from 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. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Amen