

Week of March 10 - Helmet of Salvation | Small Group Lesson 27

Connect

Is it possible to forget your salvation? How, or why not?

Verses - Ephesians 6:17a (CSB)

17 Take the helmet of salvation.

Study

1. **Context / Review:** In Ephesians 6:11-16, Paul writes about how Christians should prepare to resist and oppose the schemes of the devil and other evil spiritual forces. They should put on and take up—truth, righteousness, readiness for the gospel of peace, and faith—each of which Paul identifies with a particular piece of armor or weapon—belt, breastplate, sandals, shield—which soldiers use in battle.
    a. Read together Ephesians 6:11-16.
    b. Do you believe that the armor is to defend or attack? Why/why not? (2 Thessalonians 3:3)

2. **Today's Text:** In Ephesians 16:17a, Paul continues the preceding thoughts, adding that Christians should take salvation which Paul identifies with a soldier's helmet. Within this context, Paul's meaning seems to be that we should make use of salvation in our battle against evil spiritual forces like soldiers use their helmets in wars among men.
    a. What is the connection of salvation and the head? (1 Timothy 2:4; Luke 1:76-78; 1 Corinthians 2:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:6-8)

Study

3. **For Further Study:** It is likely Paul is drawing on the language of Isaiah 59 (vv. 17-19) and echoing thoughts which he expressed in 1 Thessalonians 5:8. Both of these passages refer to the helmet of salvation. In Isaiah, God himself promises to put on the helmet and to come to defeat his enemies and preserve his people. In 1 Thess the Christians are those who wear the hope of salvation, as a helmet, awaiting the Day of the Lord.

   But as we learned today (in Ephesians 16:17a) the Church is expected to make use of its salvation.

   a. Is this battle something we engage in by choice? Why or why not? (Ephesians 6:11-12; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; 1 Peter 5:8)

DISCUSS

Here in 6:17a Paul teaches that we should "take" the helmet of salvation. In Eph. 2:8 Paul teaches that salvation is a gift from God. How do you understand the relationship between these two teachings? (Consider for example Eph. 4:24)

Apply

A helmet is not useful, if we do not *(a) wear it* and *(b) use it for things which a helmet is required for!* Doing things for which a helmet is required, is dangerous (*Why would you need it?*). How is salvation used like a helmet?

Share

Describe a time when understanding your salvation through faith in Jesus, protected you from the schemes of the devil. Describe a time when you overcame a difficult situation through this knowledge. (see: John 20:25, 28)

Grow

Consider, *Why does God allow Satan to oppose us? How does this help us to grow?* Identify some areas in your life where you are struggling presently and ask your SG to pray with you that God will deliver you through these difficulties, while using them to make you stronger and better, more like Jesus.