

Armor of God Part 6

Steve Berger August 14, 2016

Review and Preview

- addressing **spiritual warfare** and the **armor God gives us** in order to be victorious
- **repeatedly commanded to stand** by putting on the **whole armor**, loins girded with truth, breastplate of righteousness, feet covered with peace, shield of faith...
- TODAY— and take the helmet of salvation
- **Ephesians 6:17**
...and take the helmet of salvation...

Helmet of Salvation

Helmet of salvation — often a teaching on protecting/renewing your mind, thoughts etc., that's valid truth, just not sure that's what Paul means here, loins girded with truth covers that...

Question? *What is the helmet of salvation about?*

Answer — *Paul told us about 8-10 years earlier when he writes:*

- **1 Thessalonians 5:8**
But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.
- **The helmet of salvation is the helmet of the HOPE of our salvation!**
- not present sense — not the hope of the salvation that we experience NOW
- future sense — the hope of our ultimate salvation that we'll experience when Jesus Christ returns!

Application — *You must guard and protect the hope you have in the imminent return of Jesus Christ to earth! (imminent — can occur at any moment)*

**Devil would love for you to adopt an attitude that the Master is delaying His coming, therefore, you can live a compromised, sinful life.
Wearing Helmet of Hope of Salvation guards!**

- Matthew 24 — Jesus deals with many aspects of His return, shares how some will **not guard their thoughts about the Master's return...**

- **Matthew 24:48-51**

But if that evil servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

When you don't guard and protect your hope in the imminent return of Jesus Christ, when you say, "He's delaying His coming", you open yourself up to apathy, compromise, sin and possibly the judgment of God on your life! **Put on Helmet of the Hope of your Salvation!**

Four Ways to put on the Helmet of the Hope of your Salvation

Live a PREPARED life while hopefully awaiting the return of Jesus Christ!

- **Matthew 25:1-13**

Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. "And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!'" Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.' And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.'" "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming."

- **Describes-** ancient middle-eastern tradition of a bridegroom coming for his bride with much surprise and fanfare when it was time for the wedding

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5 wise virgins are the prepared, ready ones — oil in lamp, oil in vessels, prepared with little if he was to come quickly, prepared with extra in their vessels should he tarry

5 foolish virgins weren't prepared for the long haul — only oil in their lamps, ran out!

Question? How's your oil supply? Oil is Holy Spirit, are you continually refilling? Ephesians 5:18, worship, word, ways of God? Half-hearted unprepared religious actions?

**If you live a life prepared for Jesus' imminent return,
you're wearing the Helmet of Hope of Salvation!**

Live a **PRODUCTIVE** life while hopefully awaiting the return of Jesus Christ!

- **Matthew 25:14-30**

Parable of Talents — 5 talents, given 5 more, well done; 2 talents, given 2 more, well done; 1 talent, buried, given no more, wicked.

- discover, develop, deploy the gifts and talents He's given you for His Kingdom!
- you can't bury what you've been given, being selfish, wicked and lazy

- **Philippians 1:21-24** — adopt Paul's mindset

For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you.

***Application** — live for Christ, produce fruit by laboring for Jesus, understanding that dying is then gain. Live hard-pressed, heart in heaven, hand in the harvest.*

**If you live a productive life before Jesus' imminent return,
you're wearing the Helmet of Hope of Salvation**

Live a **PURIFIED** life while hopefully awaiting the return of Jesus Christ!

- **1 John 3:2-3**

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

- can't purify self, only the cleansing blood of Jesus can do that...

***Application** — co-operate with the conviction of the Holy Spirit as He seeks to purify your life in day-to-day situations as we await the return of Jesus!*

IMPORTANT — just because you weren't convicted about something in the past doesn't mean the Holy Spirit isn't convicting you now, wanting to purify your life now from that very thing.

***Application** — if you hear His voice don't harden your heart in rebellion. Co-operate, purify self!*

**If you live a purified life before Jesus' imminent return,
you're wearing the Helmet of Hope of Salvation!**

Live a **PEACEFUL** life while hopefully awaiting the return of Jesus Christ!

- **1 Peter 1:13-15**

Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct...

Very interesting — these three verses contain all four points we're talking about

- gird up loins of mind, be sober — preparation

- as obedient children — productive
- being holy in your conduct — purified
- rest your hope fully on the grace that will be yours when Jesus returns...

Application — *resting your hope fully on the return of Jesus means to be at peace until He comes back.*

If you rest your hope fully in anything or anyone other than Jesus and His return, when all wrongs will be made right, and all bounty, beauty and blessing will be fully realized — you will lack peace in this life.

WITHOUT QUESTION — *You'll live a peaceful life when you rest your hope fully on the return of Jesus Christ!*

SUMMARY

The helmet of the hope of your salvation becomes real, you put it on, when you live a Prepared, Productive, Purified, Peaceful life, awaiting the imminent return of Jesus Christ.

Discussion Questions

1. Are you prepared or has your oil run dry?
2. Are you productive or have you buried your gifts and talents?
3. Are you purifying yourself or rebelling against the Spirit's conviction?
4. Are you at peace, resting your hope fully in the return of Jesus, or are you looking to something else to bring you peace?

JOIN US BEFORE THE THRONE: WORSHIP NIGHT

Wednesday, August 31st

6:30 p.m. — Sanctuary