

WWWN

WE WRESTLE NOT

SERIES DEVOTIONAL
HELMET OF SALVATION | JULY 19, 2020

GRACE
FELLOWSHIP

Discussion Starter #1: What do we mean when we use the term “salvation”?

Key Passage: “...take the helmet of salvation...” (Eph.6:17a)

TEACHING POINT

#1

The helmet of salvation protects our mind, which is a major target for Satan’s attacks.

The helmet was the last piece of armor to go on when a soldier suited up for battle. It was the final act of readiness in preparation for combat. A helmet was vital for survival since it protected the brain, which is the command station for the rest of the body. If the head was badly damaged, of course, the rest of the armor would be of little use.

The assurance of salvation is our impenetrable defense against anything the enemy throws at us. Jesus said, “Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell” (Mat.10:28). As we prepare for Satan’s attacks, we must put on the helmet securely. Salvation provides daily protection and deliverance from our own sin nature and Satan’s schemes.

Because of what Jesus accomplished on the cross for us, Satan no longer has any hold on us “For the law of the Spirit of life has set you[a] free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death” (Romans 8:2). Satan is aware of this, but he is also aware that most of God’s children don’t know it—or at least live as if they don’t know it. This is why we must keep our helmets on tightly so that Satan’s fiery missiles don’t penetrate our thoughts and cause destruction in our minds. Through the helmet of salvation, we can “destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God and take every thought captive to obey Christ (2 Cor.10:5).

A key reason why many Christians lack assurance of salvation is because they look for it in wrong places. Assurance is not found in our feelings since our feelings are not always reliable, nor is it found in our obedience toward God since we are often inconsistent in our obedience. Assurance also is not found in our spiritual growth since our growth occurs at different paces in different seasons of life. While feelings, obedience, and spiritual growth are certainly not bad things, they are not the basis of our assurance. The assurance of our salvation is founded upon the Word of God (1 Jn.5:13). God has preserved His precious Word throughout the centuries so we have something eternally solid upon which to rest our faith!

TALK ABOUT IT:

- Why is it important to know that Satan no longer has a hold on you once you become a Christian?
- Why do you think Satan attacks our mind?

TEACHING POINT

#2

The helmet of salvation shows that there is a close connection between our mind and our degree of assurance of salvation.

God wants us to have assurance of our salvation—to know that we are saved and that we are eternally secure. We should not live our Christian lives wondering and worrying each day whether or not we are truly saved. That is why the Bible makes the plan of salvation so clear: “If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved” (Rom.10:9). Assurance means freedom from doubt. By taking God’s Word to heart, you can have no doubt about the reality of your eternal salvation.

It is possible to be Christian and yet not enjoy Christian certainty. The devil knows he cannot rob a Christian of salvation, so instead he strategizes to rob us of the joy and certainty of salvation. But God not only wants us to be saved; He also wants us to know that we are eternally secure in Him. God wants us to feel safe in His love.

1 John 5:11–13 says: “And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. 13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.”

Jesus Himself assures those who believe in Him: “I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand” (John 10:28-29).

So, be joyful in what God’s Word is saying to you: instead of doubting, we can live with confidence! We have the assurance from Christ’s own Word that our salvation will never be in danger. Our assurance of salvation is based on the perfect and complete salvation God has provided for us through Jesus Christ.

TALK ABOUT IT:

- Why is assurance of salvation so important?

- What is the connection between assurance of salvation and our mind and the helmet of salvation?

- How would you help a new Christian to grow in his / her assurance of salvation?

#3

The helmet of salvation protects our thought life so we can have the mind of Christ.

In 1 Corinthians 2:16, Paul states, “*We have the mind of Christ.*” First, having the mind of Christ means we understand God’s plan in the world—to bring glory to Himself, restore creation to its original splendor, and provide salvation for sinners. Further, it also means we identify with Christ’s purpose “*to seek and to save what was lost*” (Lk.19:10). Finally, it means we share Jesus’ perspective of humility and obedience (Php.2:5-8), compassion (Mat.9:36), and prayerful dependence on God (Lk.5:16).

Note some important truths concerning the mind of Christ in the verses leading up to 1 Corinthians 2:16:

1. The mind of Christ stands in sharp contrast to the wisdom of man.

“So that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God” (v.5).

2. The mind of Christ involves wisdom from God, once hidden but now revealed.

“But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory” (v.7)

3. The mind of Christ is given to believers through the Spirit of God.

“These things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. 11 For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God” (v.10-12).

4. The mind of Christ cannot be understood by those without the Spirit.

“The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned” (v.14).

TALK ABOUT IT:

- Explain the concept of “the mind of Christ” in your own words.
- Why is it important that Christians think like Christ thinks?
- How does the mind of Christ differs from the wisdom of man (1 Cor.2:5)?
- Why do you think a non-Christian cannot understand the mind of Christ (1 Cor.2:14)?