

The Helmet of Salvation

I. THE HOPE OF SALVATION.

But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. 1 Thessalonians 5:8

Salvation must be our helmet. A good hope of salvation, a Scriptural expectation of victory, will purify the soul, and keep it from being defiled by Satan.

If we have hope of salvation, we must shun any thing that would shake our trust in the Lord. We have solid ground on which to build our unshaken hope, when we consider, that salvation is by our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, to atone for our sins and to ransom our souls. Our hope of salvation:

1. Is of God - (Psalms 3:8, 37:39; Jeremiah 3:23).
2. Is the purpose of God - (2 Timothy 1:9).
3. Is by Christ alone - (Isaiah 45:21, 59:16; Acts 4:12).
4. Is not by works - (Romans 11:6; Ephesians 2:9; 2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 3:5).
5. Is of grace - (Ephesians 2:5,8; 2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 2:11).

II. Wait for the Hope of Righteousness by Faith.

For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. Galatians 5:5

The sole condition on which God's righteousness is imputed or credited to the believer is faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Faith is called a "condition," not because it possesses any merit, but only because it is the instrument, the only instrument by which the soul receives Christ and his righteousness.

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Romans 10:17

It is necessary that the gospel be preached to a lost and dying world. Somebody must show them what they are to believe. The gospel is given, not only to be known and believed, but to be obeyed. The Bible is not a book of ideas or opinions, but rules to be obeyed. The beginning, progress, and strength of faith is by hearing. But it is only by hearing the word of God that our faith will be strengthened.

1. Christ is the author and finisher of FAITH - (Hebrews 12:2)
2. Christ dwells in the heart by FAITH - (Ephesians 3:17)
3. FAITH is a gift of the Holy Spirit - (1 Corinthians 12:9)
4. Without FAITH it is impossible to please God - (Hebrews 11:6)
5. FAITH is evidence of the new birth - (John 5:1)

Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. James 1:3

Christianity teaches men to be joyful under troubles because such tests are sent from God's love. Let us take care, in times of trial, that patience, and not passion, is set to work in us: whatever is said or done, *let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. James 1:5*. When the work of patience is complete, it will furnish all that is necessary for our Christian race and warfare.

III. Looking for that Blessed Hope.

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Titus 2:13

Look for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing:

1. With Prayer. (Luke 21:36; Ephesians 6:18).
2. With Thanksgiving (Colossians 4:2).
3. With steadfastness in the faith (1 Corinthians 16:13).
4. With heedfulness (Mark 13:33).
5. With sobriety (1 Thessalonians 5:6; 1 Peter 4:6).
6. At all times (Proverbs 8:34).
7. In all things (2 Timothy 4:5).

Those that wait for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, will be kept by him to the end; they will be blameless in the day of Christ, and will receive a crown of righteousness.
2 Timothy 4:8

IV. The Hope of Eternal Life.

In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began; Titus 1:2

That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. Titus 3:7

Eternal life is set before us in this promise in the Word of God; the Spirit works faith in us, and gives us the hope of eternal life; faith and hope bring it near, and fills us with joy and the expectation of it.

V. The Hope of Eternal Glory.

By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Romans 5:2

To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: Colossians 1:27

Let us be thankful that God has made known to us "*the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven*" (Matthew 13:11), and has shown us the riches of his glory among us. As Christ is preached to us today, let us seriously evaluate our lives, whether He dwells and reigns in us; for this alone can warrant our assured hope of his glory.

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. James 1:12

We must be faithful till death, through all trials, that we may receive the crown of life, and obtain the end of our faith, the salvation of our souls (1 Corinthians 4:2).