



Go for God!

“SPIRITUAL WARFARE!!!” (Part 6)

EPHESIANS 6:10-17

“And Take the *HELMET OF SALVATION!*”

Ephesians 6:17 - And take the helmet of salvation

- A Roman helmet was called a galea, used by soldiers in the Roman army to protect their heads in battle. The metal helmet deflected projectiles and blows in melees. Roman helmets also served a ceremonial purpose, as well as helping highlight the status of wearers of certain helms. Roman soldiers wore helmets made of iron or bronze. These gave good protection to the head and neck. The cheeks were guarded with special flaps on hinges. However the front of the face was not so well protected. On the back of the helmet was a plate sticking back called a neck guard.

- Paul writes that we are to **“take the *HELMET OF SALVATION!*”**

- It was General William Booth, founder of the *Salvation Army* who said, “I am worried about the church losing the message of the true gospel of SALVATION.” He illuminates four concerns:

(1) Christianity without Christ

(2) Forgiveness without repentance

(3) Salvation without regeneration

(4) Heaven without Hell

> **So let us understand SALVATION!** – The word SALVATION is found 162 times in the Scriptures. This doctrine of salvation reached its fulfillment in the death of Christ on our behalf. The name Jesus was given Him because **‘it is he that shall save his people from their sins’** (Matt 1:21); He is distinctively the **‘Saviour’** (Luke 2:11); His work on earth was **‘to seek and to save that which was lost’** (Luke 19:10); His death and resurrection were a means to salvation (Rom 5:8,10); He is exalted **‘to be a Prince and a Saviour’ to give repentance and remission of sins** (Acts 5:31); **‘in none other is there salvation’** (Acts 4:12).

In Apostolic usage, therefore, salvation is the all-embracing name for the blessings brought by the gospel (cf. *‘the gospel of your salvation,’* Eph 1:13; *‘the word of this salvation,’* Acts 13:26; *‘repentance unto salvation,’* 2 Cor 7:10 etc.). Enough here to say that it includes deliverance from all sin’s evils, and the bestowal of all spiritual blessings in Christ (Eph 1:3). **It begins on earth in forgiveness, renewal, the bestowal of the Holy Spirit, enlightenment, guidance, strengthening, comfort; and is perfected in the blessedness and glory, in which body and soul share, of the life everlasting.** The fact never to be forgotten about is, that it has been obtained at the infinite cost of the redeeming death of God’s own Son (cf. Rev 5:8). (from Hastings’ Dictionary of the Bible)

> **SALVATION IS OF THE LORD!**

- **How does salvation take place?**

According to John 1:10-13- *He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

- 1- *Born not of blood* - (ancestry) You cannot get into heaven because of your parents' or grandparents' faith!
- 2- *Born not of the will of the flesh* - (religion) Many people believe that going to church will save them (acts, works, etc.) Or that, since they are "good people" they will go to heaven. Nothing could be further from the truth. Religious systems are devised by man to reach God, whereas God reached us through Jesus Christ, His Son. All man- made efforts dishonor Christ sacrifice upon the cross.
- 3- *Born not of the will of man* (politics) - If anything, politics should show us just how much we need to depend on God and His guidance in our daily lives!
- 4- *But born of God* (faith in Jesus Christ) - Let us observe John Ch. 3:1- 8 ("Nic at night") Nicodemus was religious but not saved. Jesus knew that Nicodemus needed more than a teacher—he needed a Savior. He needed more than religion—he needed regeneration. He needed more than Law—he needed life!

- Insight into two births: (1) Being *born of the flesh* produces a *sinful* (Ps. 51:5) and *corruptible nature* (1 Pet. 1:23). The flesh nature is under the sentence of *death* (Ro. 6:23) and every unsaved person is a *child of the devil* (1 John 3:10).

(2) Being *born of the Spirit* (our new birth) produces a nature that conquers sin (1 John 3:9); it produces the righteousness of God (2 Cor. 5:21) and the life of Christ in us (Gal. 2:20)!

- We are saved by grace! - Ephesians 2:8-9- *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

- We are saved by the blood of Christ! - Romans 3:23-26 - *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.* (Propitiation speaks of the atoning death of Jesus on the cross, through which He paid the penalty demanded by God because of man's sin, thus setting mankind free from sin and death.)

- We repent and receive the Holy Spirit! - Acts 2:38-39- *Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."*

- To repent means to "turn around," instead of walking away from God you are now walking toward God, living a life after the way, the truth, and life of Jesus Christ!

- Let us look to Luke 15:11-32 - Observe the prodigal son's three step program:

#1 - RECOGNIZED HIS SINS!

#2 – REPENTED OF HIS SINS!

#3 – RECONCILED TO HIS FATHER!

- The Work of Salvation is Threefold:

- 1) Past-tense "Justification"- Romans 5:1-2 - *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*
- 2) Present-tense "Sanctification" - 2 Thessalonians 2:13 -*But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
- 3) Future-tense "Glorification"- Philippians 3:20-21 - *For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.*

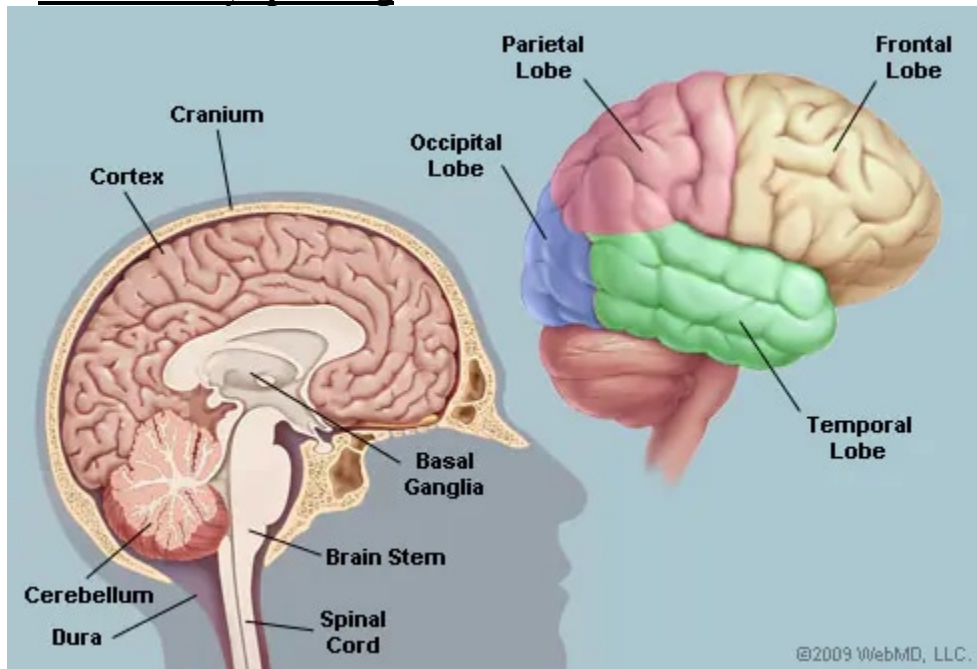
- May you hold dear to your heart the most quoted Bible verse John 3:16 - *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

- Porter Barrington writes- "God so loved you, that He gave His only begotten Son, to be sin for you, that you might become the righteousness of God in Him. Jesus Christ was made that which God hates: *SIN* — that you might become that which God loves: *RIGHTEOUSNESS*. Because God so loved you, you can exchange your sins for His righteousness. Could you ask for greater evidence of love? Calvary is proof that God loves, and longs to save you. Will you say, "God loves me!"

> TAKE THE HELMET OF SALVATION:

- The HELMET protects the head and brain; may we say the MIND! The MIND is the part of a person that *thinks and reasons*. Four separate Greek words account for nearly all instances of "mind" in the New Testament. They all mean much the same thing: understanding, thought, mind, reason. While today we think of a person's mind in a morally neutral way, in the New Testament the mind was clearly thought of as either good or evil.

> Scientifically speaking:



Human Anatomy - By Matthew Hoffman, MD

The brain is one of the largest and most complex organs in the human body.

It is made up of more than 100 billion nerves that communicate in trillions of connections called synapses.

- The brain is made up of many specialized areas that work together:
 - The cortex is the outermost layer of brain cells. Thinking and voluntary movements begin in the cortex.
 - The brain stem is between the spinal cord and the rest of the brain. Basic functions like breathing and sleep are controlled here.
 - The basal ganglia are a cluster of structures in the center of the brain. The basal ganglia coordinate messages between multiple other brain areas.
 - The cerebellum is at the base and the back of the brain. The cerebellum is responsible for coordination and balance.
- The brain is also divided into several lobes:

- The frontal lobes are responsible for problem solving and judgment and motor function.
- The parietal lobes manage sensation, handwriting, and body position.
- The temporal lobes are involved with memory and hearing.
- The occipital lobes contain the brain's visual processing system.

The brain is surrounded by a layer of tissue called the meninges. The skull (cranium) helps protect the brain from injury.

> In Scripture: Negatively, the mind may be:

(1) "hardened" - 2 Cor 3:14-18 - *But their minds were hardened; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ. But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart; but whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.*

(2) "blinded" - 2 Corinthians 4:3-5 - *But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.*

(3) "corrupted" - 2 Timothy 3:8-9 - *Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.*

(4) "debased" - Romans 1:28-32 - *And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.*

> On the positive side, the Christian mind is to:

(1) Be "renewed" - Romans 12:2 - *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

(2) Be "pure" - 2 Peter 3:1-9 - *Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His*

coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation." For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

(3) Have "the mind of Christ" - 1 Corinthians 2:16 - For "who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

- Philippians 2:5-11 - Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

(4) Be "in unity" - Romans 12:16 - Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion;

- 1 Peter 3:8 - Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.

(5) Have "peace of mind" Isaiah 26:3 - Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusts in thee.

- Paul writes in Philippians 4:6-7 "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

(6) Think "happy thoughts" - Philippians 4:8-9 - Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things.

(7) God is THINKING OF YOU! - Jeremiah 29:11-13 - For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

