

***“The Helmet & the Sword:
Part I”***

Eph 6:10-20

September 6, 2009

The Breastplate of Righteousness

1. The breastplate of righteousness refers to the fact that those who believe in Christ are clothed with the righteousness he achieved for them.
2. Further, the breastplate refers to the fact that, on the basis of what Christ has done, they pursue righteousness every day of their lives.
3. One word we can use to describe this is “salvation.”

An Important Question:

What exactly does Paul have in mind when he mentions the “helmet of salvation” and how is it different from the “breastplate of righteousness”?

Verbs & Pieces of the Armor:

- *Having fastened* – the belt of truth (v 14)
- *Having put on* – the breastplate of right. (v 14)
- *Having put on* – the shoes of readiness (v 15)
- *Take up* – the shield of faith (v 16)
- *Take* – the helmet and the sword (v 17)

The Helmet & the Sword

- Helmets are designed to cover the head.
- The head is the container of the mind which most likely means Paul has the mind in mind!
- The working out of salvation has much to do with the renewal of the mind which is why Paul labels the helmet “salvation.”
- The renewal of the mind happens through regular exposure to the will and ways of God as revealed in his Word.

The Process of Salvation & the Word of God

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

Romans 1:16

Galatians 1:8-9

“But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.”

The Process of Salvation & the Word of God

“In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.”

Ephesians 1:13-14

The Process of Salvation & the Word of God

“¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.”

2 Timothy 3:14-17

The Process of Salvation & the Word of God

“¹ Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. ² For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, ³ how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, ⁴ while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.”

Hebrews 2:1-4

Conclusion...

1. There is an inalterable connection between the process of salvation and the Word of God.
2. Therefore, I think there is Scriptural warrant for thinking that Paul means to connect the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit in that he envisions the Word of God as the key element in the process of salvation, of renewing our minds.