

MARRIAGE BY THE BOOK

THE HELMENT of SALVATION

1. REVIEW

A. THE 3 pieces of **THE ARMOR of GOD** THAT we ARE to **“HAVE” (WEAR) ALL THE TIME ARE:**

B. **Ephesians 6:12-15 (NASB)** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, **HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH**, and **HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**, and having shod **YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE;**

1. The **BELT of TRUTH**

2. The **BREASTPLATE of RIGHTEOUSNESS**

3. The **SHOES of PEACE**

C. THE 3 pieces of **THE ARMOR of GOD** THAT we ARE to **“TAKE UP” (HAVE AT HAND)** in “The Evil Day” **ARE:**

D. **Ephesians 6:16-17 (NASB)** in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil *one*. And take **THE HELMET OF SALVATION**, and (take) the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

1. The **SHIELD of FAITH**

2. The **HELMENT of SALVATION**

3. The **SWORD of the SPIRIT**

E. **EXAMPLE:** During the game a **softball** or **baseball player** **MUST ALWAYS WEAR their UNIFORM... “HAVE”**

1. Wearing the uniform **HELPS PREVENT CONFUSION.**

2. **DURING** the game, **WHILE WEARING THEIR UNIFORM,** there are times when players **“TAKE UP” a GLOVE or a BAT... “HAVE AT HAND”**

2. THE HELMENT of SALVATION

3. **Ephesians 6:17a (NASB)** And **take** **THE HELMET OF SALVATION,**

MARRIAGE BY THE BOOK

THE HELMENT of SALVATION

A. The **MAIN PURPOSE** of a **HELMENT** is not only to **COVER** the **HEAD**, but also to **PROTECT** the **BRAIN** and the **MIND**. (in battle, sports, or work situations).

1. Paul is once again using a **PHYSICAL EXAMPLE** to illustrate a **SPIRITUAL TRUTH**.
 - a. He is illustrating that just as the **BRAIN** is the **control center for the rest of the body**, the **MIND** is the **control center for the WILL and EMOTIONS**.
2. Satan's **ATTACKS** are **MOST** often against our **MIND**.
 - a. Our **MIND** controls our **WILL, EMOTIONS**, and ultimately our **BODY**.
 - b. So, it's **no surprise** that one of Satan's **PRIMARY STRATIGIES IS TO ATTACK OUR MIND**.

B. **AN ILLUSTRATION** of the essential nature of **PUTTING ON** ("Taking up") **THE HELMENT** from the game of **FOOTBALL**:

1. Because the **QUARTERBACK** runs the plays, he is **CONSTANTLY** under **ATTACK** from the **opposing team**.
 - a. The **DEFENSE** is **CONSTANTLY** trying to sack him, knock him down, block him, move him out of the pocket, intercept his pass, or strip the ball from his hands.
2. **HOWEVER**, sitting in a booth **high above** the **QUARTERBACK** is a man who holds the title of **OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR**.
 - a. The **OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR'S JOB** is to **COMMUNOCATE WITH THE QUARTERBACK** during the game, **WARNING HIM** about what might be coming at him.
 - b. The **OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR TELLS** the **QUARTERBACK** how he is to move, what play he is to call, how he is to function, what he is to

MARRIAGE BY THE BOOK

THE HELMENT of SALVATION

avoid, where he is to put up his guard, and where the **WEAK POINTS IN THE DEFENSE** are that he is to try to **EXPLOIT**.

- 1) The **OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR COMMUNICATES** with the **QUARTERBACK** through a **SPEAKER** in his **HELMENT**.
- 2) Have you ever noticed a **QUARTERBACK** in the middle of a very important game **start waving his arms up and down to the crowd?**
 - i. He is **SIGNALING** to his **FANS** that they are being **TOO LOUD** and that he can **NOT HEAR** what is being **SPOKEN TO HIM** through his **HELMENT**. He wants the **CROWD TO QUIET DOWN**.
 - ii. In a similar way, **PEOPLES VOICES...** their opinions, thoughts, accusations, or even attempts at being helpful... will often **DROWN OUT WHAT GOD IS TRYING TO SPEAK TO A BELIEVER IN THEIR HELMENT of SALVATION**.
 - iii. Those people may have **EXCELLENT INTENTIONS**, and they might even be trying to cheer you on, **BUT** in the **MIDDLE of the BATTLE**, you **MUST** be able to **HEAR GOD'S VOICE**.

3. **DISCUSS:**

- a. QUARTERBACK
- b. OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR
- c. FANS

4. The **DECIDING FACTOR** in **VICTORY** or **DEFEAT** in **SPIRITUAL WARFARE** is the **MIND**.
 - a. If the **MIND** (the **SPIRITUAL EXPRESSION of the BRAIN**) operates on **FALSE REALITY** and **FALSE TRUTH**, then the **BODY** will also **FUNCTION** according to that **FALSE TRUTH**.

MARRIAGE BY THE BOOK

THE HELMENT of SALVATION

- b. **Genesis 3:1 (NASB)** Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "**Indeed, has God said**, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?"
 - c. **John 8:43-44 (NASB)** "Why do you not understand what I am saying? *It is* because you cannot hear My word. "You are of *your* father **the devil**, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and **does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him**. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for **he is a liar and the father of lies**.
- 1) In other words, if our **PERSPECTIVE is WRONG** our **FUNCTION** will also be **FLAWED**.
5. **Proverbs 23:7a (NASB)** For as a man **thinks within himself, so he is**.
6. Essentially, **WE DO WHAT WE THINK**.
- a. **EXAMPLE #1... THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION**
- 1) For **years, LEGALLY FREED SLAVES** remained in **BONDAGE** simply because of **WHAT THEY BELIEVED TO BE TRUE**.
- i. **News** of the **SLAVES' FREEDOM** didn't reach **Florida** until **SEVERAL MONTHS AFTER** the Proclamation.
 - ii. **News** didn't reach **Texas** until Union soldiers marched into Galveston a full **TWO YEARS** after the Proclamation.
 - iii. **For years, legally freed slaves remained in bondage** simply because of what **THEY THOUGHT WAS TRUE**.
- 2) Being **LEGALLY FREE** can be **an entirely different thing** from being **FUNCTIONALLY FREE**.
- i. **John 8:32 (NASB)** and you will **know the truth**, and **the truth will make you free**." (The **TRUTH** that you **KNOW**)
 - ii. SLAVES did **NOT POSSESS KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH BY WHICH THEY COULD ESCAPE THEIR BONDAGE**.
1. **PRACTICAL APPLICATION:** What Satan wants to do is to keep us from wearing the **HELMENT of SALVATION** SO THAT

MARRIAGE BY THE BOOK

THE HELMENT of SALVATION

WHAT HE TELLS US ABOUT OUR SALVATION BECOMES THE TRUTH WE ACT ON.

2. Proverbs 23:7a (NASB) For as a man **thinks within himself, so he is.**

b. EXAMPLE #2... JED CLAMPETT!!

1) DISCUSS JEDD

2) WHEN DID JEDD BECOME A MILLIONAIRE...

i. LEGALLY...

ii. FUNCTIONALLY?

iii. WHEN HE DISCOVERED OIL?

iv. WHEN HE BOUGHT THE LAND?

C. Many CHRISTIANS are living today WITHOUT THE FULL KNOWLEDGE of what we have been GIVEN in SALVATION.

1. We are LIVING LIKE SLAVES and POOR HILLBILLIES when ALL that we could ever USE or NEED has been MADE AVAILABLE to us through the GIFT of SALVATION in Jesus Christ.

2. WHY?... too frequently WE LIMIT our understanding of SALVATION to GOING TO HEAVEN.

3. SALVATION DOES include ETERNITY, B U T it also includes MUCH MORE.

4. SALVATION is an all-inclusive word that summarizes ALL that Christ has PROVIDED for us: PAST, PRESENT and FUTURE.

A. JUSTIFICATION = SALVATION in the PAST TENSE

1. JUSTIFICATION REMOVED the PENALTY for our SIN.

2. We "HAVE BEEN" JUSTIFIED.

B. SANCTIFICATION = SALVATION in the PRESENT TENSE.

1. SANCTIFICATION IS REMOVING the POWER of SIN.

2. We "ARE BEING" SANCTIFIED.

C. GLORIFICATION = SALVATION in the FUTURE TENSE.

1. GLORIFICATION WILL REMOVE the PRESENCE of SIN.

2. We "WILL BE" GLORIFIED.

D. SANCTIFICATION is the FOCUS as we look at the HELMENT of SALVATION.

1. SALVATION, in this section, is SANCTIFICATION... the PROCESS of a person BECOMING MORE LIKE CHRIST.

5. SALVATION is MULTI-DIMENSIONAL, NOT ONE-DIMENSIONAL

MARRIAGE BY THE BOOK

THE HELMENT of SALVATION

- A. **WE** are **SAVED TO HEAVEN AND FROM HELL** in the **FUTURE AS WELL AS IN THE PRESENT**.
- B. **Ephesians 2:8-10 (NASB)** For **by grace** you have been **saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves, *it is the* gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **for good works**, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.
1. WE are **SAVED BY GRACE, THROUGH FAITH, FOR GOOD WORKS**
 2. And the **WAY WE WERE SAVED** is the **SAME WAY WE ARE TO FUNCTION... BY GRACE, THROUGH FAITH, FOR GOOD WORKS**
- C. **PROBLEM**: The **PROBLEM** is **NOT** that we are **LACKING IN GRACE** or the **things that GRACE supplies**.
1. Our **PROBLEM** has to do with the **WAY WE ACCESS GRACE...**
 - a. Through **FAITH**
 - b. **NOT** through **WORKS**
 2. **GRACE**, by its very definition, has **NOTHING TO DO WITH US, or what WE DO**.
 - a. It IS what **GOD DOES FOR US BECAUSE OF** His unmerited favor.
- D. **RELIGION** tries to tell us that we **ACCESS GOD'S GRACE (HIS FAVOR and BLESSINGS) THROUGH OUR WORKS**.
1. Most often **RELIGION'S FOCUS** is on **WHAT WE "DO" ... NOT WHOSE WE "BE"**.
- E. **RELIGION** says:
1. IF **you come to church more often... God will bless you more**.
 2. IF **you give more money, you will get more money**.
 - a. Reverend Ike... "Get **out** of the **GETTO**, and get **into** the **GET MO**!"
 3. IF **you** will just read **SELF HELP BOOKS**:
 - a. "**___ HABITS OF...**"
 - b. "**HOW TO...**"
 - c. "**THE ART OF...**"
 - d. "**THE POWER OF...**"
 - e. "**THE ___ PRINCIPLES OF...**"
 - 1) In **MANY RELIGIOUS CHURCHES** it often seems that the **BIBLE** is the least read book!
 4. The **PROBLEM** is **NOT** those good things we do **in themselves**.
 - a. The **PROBLEM** is in the **MOTIVATION** behind doing them.

MARRIAGE BY THE BOOK

THE HELMETS of SALVATION

- b. **IF** we are **DOING GOOD WORKS** to try to **EARN GOD'S FAVOR** so we can **ACCESS HIS GRACE**, we have **DISQUALIFIED OURSELVES FROM GRACE** because our actions have shown that we don't **BELIEVE (HAVE FAITH) in WHAT GRACE TRULY IS.**
 - c. **RELIGION** will **defeat us** because it keeps us in a posture of trying to **EARN what has already been FREELY GIVEN.**
- F. **EXAMPLE #3...** College student determined to make 4.0 GRADES who stayed up for two nights writing a paper only to discover they had made a "0".
- 1. Written at the top were these words:
 - a. **"Great work. Wrong assignment."**
 - 2. A lot of **CHRISTIANS** are trying to be **DELIVERED ON EARTH** by **WORKING HARD, SERVING HARD, and GIVING MORE...**all the while **NOT REALIZING...**
 - 3. **THAT THEY'RE WORKING ON THE WRONG ASSIGNMENT!!**
 - 4. **OUR GOOD WORKS** must flow out of **GOD'S WORK of GRACE** in our **lives... RATHER** than out of a heart that's trying to **EARN HIS FAVOR.**
 - 5. **FAITH** is our **positive response** to what **God has already done.**
 - a. The **GOOD WORKS** we **DO EXPRESS OUR FAITH**; they **DO NOT EARN GOD'S GRACE!**