Why “Dressed to Kill?”

See Session 1 - Terrible Trio (devil, world, flesh)

Truth: By His death on the cross and resurrection, Jesus Christ has conquered the devil and his evil angels (see 1 John 3:8). We use the armor of God to reinforce the victory of Christ over the evil one in various areas of our lives. Is there really a war going on? Yes! Jesus taught us to pray in the Our Father, “Deliver us from the evil one.” Evil is real. The war is real. Put on your armor.

Question: If the devil is a defeated enemy, why do we have to concern ourselves with armor?

Prayer

Summary

The helmet of salvation is one of the defensive weapons of the armor of God. Paul refers to salvation because your salvation is the most gorgeous, elaborate, ornate and beautiful gift you ever received. When we are confident of our salvation we are protected from evil attacks on our mind.

The Word of God

“Take the helmet of salvation.” - Ephesians 6:17a

Roman Armor in the 1st Century

“To face the enemy without your helmet of salvation is equivalent of spiritual suicide.” - Renner

The importance of the helmet for the Roman soldier.

We Study the Word:

1. Read Ephesians 6:17a

   A. “take” - δέχομαι - (dechomai) - take or receive

   B. “helmet” - περικεφαλαία - (perikephalaia) - helmet; protection with the hope of salvation

   C. “salvation” - σωτήριος - (sōtērios) - saving, bringing salvation, deliverance, preservation, defense; a safe place; He who embodies this salvation, or through whom God achieves it; salvation as the present possession of all true Christians; the hope of future salvation.

2. Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

   A. What is a “stronghold?” Originally, the Greek word (ochuroma) meant fortress, but by the time Paul wrote these words, it meant prison. A stronghold is a fortified place with thick, high walls to keep prisoners in and intruders out. Strongholds are impregnable, invisible walls in your mind and emotions that keep other from getting too close to you. The two kind of strongholds are rational and irrational. Compare Cognitive Behavioral Therapy.
B. What protects your mind from strongholds the devil has created according to these verses? How is this protection applied to your mind? Through what means?

“God intends for every cell of your mind to be dominated by your new birth.” - Rick Renner

Discuss in a Small Group
What area of deception has become a stronghold in your mind? How can you tear it down?

3. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:5-11 (esp. v. 8)
But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.

A. According to verse 6, what posture do we need to maintain in our Christian lives? What do we need to be “vigilant” about?

B. What does the word “hope” mean in verse 8? Define it. How certain is our salvation according to vv. 9-10? What is it based upon?

C. What responsibility do we have to others in the body of Christ according to verse 11?

4. Read Psalm 140:4-8

A. What role does prayer play in the battle for our minds? How confident can we be that the Lord will hear and help us, according to verse 7? Compare Psalm 62:1-2, 7.

5. Read Romans 12:2

A. What does this verse tell us about the way in which we think as we walk by the Spirit?

What Are We to Do?

1. Rejoice in your salvation.

2. Take/receive the helmet of salvation.
   Ephesians 6:17a

3. Practice truth therapy:
   a) Identify your misbeliefs, b) Confess your misbeliefs to the Lord, c) Renounce your misbeliefs, and d) Replace your misbeliefs with the truth of God's Word.

4. Guard your mind from the lies of the enemy.
   Take every thought captive to Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5). Trust the promises of God.

5. Tell yourself the truth.
   Speak the truth to yourself and over yourself.

“Truth is the oil which lubricates the joints in the Body of Christ.” - William Backus
Memorize This Verse:
“And the peace of God which passes all understanding will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” - Philippians 4:7

Prayer
*Prayer Points for Protecting Your Kids*

1. Acknowledge that the battle is for the minds of our children.
2. Discuss what your children are learning in school and how it compares to the Word.
3. Declare the truth of the Word of God over your kids daily.
4. Pray with your children that their minds be protected. Teach them to stand on truth.

Let us pray:
Lord God, by the power of Your Spirit, help us to instill Your truth into our children. They are precious in Your sight and they are being assaulted with lies every day. Protect them from the deception of the evil one - lies about You and lies about themselves. Amen.

*Prayer Points for Yourself*

Acknowledge the following truths:
- I need the helmet of salvation for the renewal of my mind.
- I need the Holy Spirit to remind me of the certainty of my salvation.
- I need the Word of God every day if I am to recognize lies and reject them.

Let us pray:
Heavenly Father, I put on the armor of God with gratitude and praise. I recognize that my minds is a particular target of the devil’s deceiving ways. I now cover my mind with the invincible helmet of salvation. In Jesus’ mighty name. Amen.

Next Session - 7:00 p.m.
The Armor of God ~ Session 7 ~ “The Sword of the Spirit”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MISBELIEFS</th>
<th>TRUTHS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>5.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>6.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>7.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>