

THE HELMET OF HOPE



Ephesians 6:17 – “And take the helmet”

- Helmets were worn to protect the head – our thinking, our reasoning, or focus.
- Why do we need our thinking protected?
 - Because this world is unraveling right before our very eyes and unless we are not of this world, we are coming apart along with it!
- Quite apart from any bodily depression, the spectacle of evil in the world-the wanton destruction of homes, the ruthless hounding of decent folk into exile, the bombings of open cities, the cold-blooded massacres and mutilations of children and defenseless gentle folk, the rapes and filthy humiliations, and above all, the return of deliberate and organized torture, mental torment and fear, to a world from which such things had seemed well-nigh banished-all these have come near to breaking my spirit altogether. (HG Wells)

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Ephesians 6:17 – “the helmet of salvation”

What then is the answer to the evil and struggle of life?

- “of salvation” – something different than what we’ve already done using the first three pieces of the armor
- **1Thess 5:8** – “and as a helmet, the hope of salvation”
- Our answer is HOPE! – but how is that our answer?

1. What is *hope*?

- Secular hope:
 - the feeling that events will turn out for the best.
- Christ-centered Worldview hope:
 - **2 Cor 1:8-10** – “He on whom we have set our hope”
 - Like faith, hope is looking away to Jesus, not itself a meritorious act.

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1. What is *hope*?

- Christ-centered Worldview hope:
 - **2 Cor 1:8-10** – “He on whom we have set our hope”
 - Like faith, hope is not in itself a meritorious act.
 - It is looking away to Jesus.
- How then is hope different than faith?
 - Faith always has its foundation in the truth of the past – though its Object or goal is often in the future
 - Hope is an active looking away to Christ for what’s true of the future!
- **Rom 8:18-25** – our hope is in the reality of our future adoption as sons!
- **2 Cor. 4:16-18** – “while we look not”

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1. What is *hope*?

- Christ-centered Worldview hope:
 - **1 Cor 13:13** – “now abide faith, hope, love”

Faith (Jesus)	<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Love (Jesus)</div>	Hope (Jesus)
←		→
past		future

Jesus as “The Truth”

- **1 Tim 1:1** – “who is our hope” (**Titus 2:13**)
- **Romans 15:4** – “the encouragement of the Scriptures”

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2. The basis for hope.

- **1 Peter 1:3-5** – “through the resurrection of Jesus”
- The historical fact of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead is the basis for our hope in Him to deliver us from this fallen world!
- No literal bodily resurrection of Jesus, no future hope!
 - **1 Cor 15:1-8** – Paul makes it very clear that the eye-witness accounts of the death and resurrection are historical facts.

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3. Hope is something we “grow” into.

- That is, the younger we are, the less we are concerned with how our society and the world are progressing towards complete disorder and destruction.
- “It is currently said that hope goes with youth, and lends to youth its wings of a butterfly; but I fancy that hope is the last gift given to man, and the only gift not given to youth. Youth is pre-eminently the period in which a man can be lyric, fanatical, poetic; but youth is the period in which a man can be hopeless.” (GK Chesterton, Charles Dickens: Last of the Great Men)
- We are taught to place our hope in:
 - Political solutions
 - Social or economic programs
 - Scientific advances

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3. Hope is something we "grow" into.
- Remember: **1 Corinthians 1:27-29** – "that no flesh should glory in His presence."
 - Then should we just do nothing to help out in this life?
 - Absolutely not, we are to remember constantly that God has a plan and His plan is being carried out no matter how bad it looks down here.
 - "Hope ... means ... a continual looking forward to the eternal world. ... It does not mean that we are to leave the present world as it is. If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next. ... It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this. Aim at Heaven and you will get earth 'thrown in'; aim at earth and you will get neither." (CS Lewis, *Mere Christianity*)
 - Note: the question of evil – N.T. Wright's *Evil and Justice of God*

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4. Putting the armor into use.
- 2 Cor 3:7-12** – "having then such a hope, we use great boldness in our speech"
 - Galatians 5:5** – "waiting for the hope of righteousness"
- Therefore:

Faith	Hope	
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- I believe:

Truth	Righteousness	Peace
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- Jeremiah 29:11** – "a future and a hope"
 - John 18:36** – "My kingdom is not of this realm"