

Be Strong in the Lord!



When a ship goes to sea, there are *three essential* questions its captain must address:

1. Why are we out here?
2. How do we keep from sinking?
3. How do we keep from bumping into other ships?



Hope, Expecting Him

Truth	Righteousness	Peace
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me in Christ

"After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also. In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you."

(John 14:19-20)

Jesus is Truth: Jesus is the Absolute Authoritative Standard of Truth, therefore my life has meaning, purpose, definition, and understanding – my life now "makes sense"! **Hallelujah!**

Jesus is Righteousness: Jesus is absolutely the only way to a righteous standing before a Holy God, therefore He is the answer to sin, guilt, shame, failure and He brings value, purpose, and worth to my life! **Hallelujah!**

Jesus is Peace: Because I am now God's son and not an object of His wrath, I have security, wholeness, forgiveness, well-being, a sense that all is well with my soul! **Hallelujah!**



Hope, Expecting Him

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Christ in me

Faith	Hope	Word
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Faith: Fixing our eyes on Jesus – faith always acts on Truth! If I'm weak in faith, I'm probably weak in my understanding or acceptance of Truth.



Hope, Expecting Him

Ephesians 6:17 "the helmet of salvation"

1. What is the "helmet of salvation?"

1. "helmet"

- Christ in me will protect my thinking – my mind.
- He will keep my thinking straight.
- He will preserve me from *mental confusion* and darkness.
- Our minds are continually overwhelmed by the perplexity of the problems we face, in the world and in our daily lives!



Hope, Expecting Him

"The modern world has sought hope in human effort and a belief in the inevitability of progress that assumed everything would naturally get better and better."

(Elwell, W. A., & Comfort, P. W.)

"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."

(H.G. Wells)



Hope, Expecting Him

Ephesians 6:17 "the helmet of salvation"

1. What is the "helmet of salvation?"

2. "of salvation"

- This is not the salvation of our spirit upon acceptance of Christ as Lord and Master.
- This is not a reference to salvation as regeneration or conversion.
- Paul is clearly talking about a salvation that will be a future event – **Romans 13:11** "salvation is nearer"



Hope, Expecting Him



Ephesians 6:17 "the helmet of salvation"

1. What is the "helmet of salvation?"
2. "of salvation"
 - **1 Thessalonians 5:8** gives us a clearer description of Paul's armor analogy, the helmet of salvation → **HOPE!**
 - "Here, salvation is a hope, something yet in the future, something as yet not possessed or entered into fully." (RCS)
2. What is *hope*?
 1. Comfort, expectation, confidence, trust
 2. Our hope is expectation and confidence in what God will do in the future – *because He said He would do it!*
 3. At the heart and foundation of our hope is the resurrection of Jesus
 - It points clearly to the future – **1 Cor. 15:16-26**
 - Warning: it is not an over saturation with the future!

Hope, Expecting Him



Ephesians 6:17 "the helmet of salvation"

2. What is *hope*?
 4. Hope must be living and active!
 - Living hope is attributed to the resurrection of Christ and points to God's future blessing upon those who belong to Christ – **1 Peter 1:3-9**
3. Why is hope so vital?
 1. We all have an inherent sense for hope, for something more, something better, something perfect.
 - Shawshank Redemption
 - Think of all of the attempts in the last century at a sense of hope!

Hope, Expecting Him



"One of the great reasons the church is so confused in this day, one of the reasons the church says so little of true significance to the world, is that it has neglected and abandoned, by and large, the hope of the coming of the Lord."

(Stedman, *Spiritual Warfare*)

The Fair Deal (President Truman) 1940's

- New civil rights legislation
- Federal housing programs
- Unemployment insurance benefits
- New tax cuts for the poor
- Federal funding for education
- A federal health care and health insurance program

Hope, Expecting Him



The New Deal (President Roosevelt) 1930's

- Agricultural Adjustment Act
- Civil Works Administration (~1 year)
- Farm Security Administration
- Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.
- Federal Emergency Relief Admin.
- Federal Housing Administration
- Indian Reorganization Act
- National Labor Relations Act
- National Recovery Administration
- National Youth Administration
- Public Works Administration (e.g. Golden Gate Bridge)
- Rural Electrification Administration
- Securities and Exchange Commission
- Social Security Administration
- Tennessee Valley Authority
- Works Progress Administration

Hope, Expecting Him



The Great Society (President Johnson) 1960's

He described the Great Society as, "A place where men are more concerned with the quality of their lives than the quantity of their goods."

The Great Society had three central themes:

- Abundance and liberty for all.
- An end to racial injustice.
- An end to poverty.

the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 included a variety of initiatives:

- Head Start
- Job Corps
- Work-Study program for university students
- VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) - a domestic version of the Peace Corps
- Neighborhood Youth Corps
- Basic education and adult job training
- CAPS (Community Action Programs)

Hope, Expecting Him



Ephesians 6:17 "the helmet of salvation"

3. We all have an inherent sense of hope.
 3. Hope is from Him
 - My soul, wait in silence for God only, for my hope is from Him. **Psalm 62:5**
 4. Colossians 1:21-23 – "not moved away from...hope"
 5. 1 Corinthians 13:13 – "faith, hope, love"
4. How does the "helmet of salvation, hope" protect?
 1. Romans 5:1-5 – "hope does not disappoint"
 2. Romans 8:22-25 – "we wait eagerly"
 3. Romans 12:12 – "rejoicing in hope"
 4. Romans 15:4 – "we might have hope"

Hope, Expecting Him



"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 the earth "thrown in"; aim at earth and you will get neither."

(C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*)

"Hope is an essential and fundamental element of Christian life, so essential indeed, that, like faith and love, it can itself designate the essence of Christianity. In it the whole glory of the Christian vocation is centered"

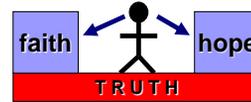
(Easton, M.)

Hope, Expecting Him



Ephesians 6:17 "the helmet of salvation"

5. Faith and Hope act on Truth.



"Faith is my acceptance of God's facts. It always has its foundations in the past. What relates to the future is hope rather than faith, although faith often has its Object or goal in the future..."

(Nee, *Normal Christian Life*)