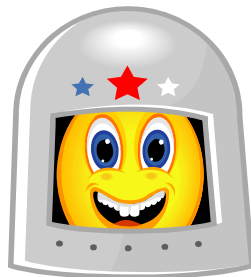


Be Strong in the Lord
Put on the Whole
Armor of God
Part 6

The Helmet of Salvation



Our Daily Bread

Junior Edition

2-10-08



SOMETHING YOU MUST KNOW:

God is perfect. He is Holy. We are all sinners. *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*

(Romans 3:23a KJB)

None of us could ever make ourselves perfect or holy to be accepted by God. But God loves us all so much, that He gave His only Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to go to the cross and pay the penalty for our sins IN FULL, ONCE and FOR ALL. Jesus died and rose again. Because of the Lord Jesus Christ, God can now make us holy and acceptable to Himself. *For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.* (1 Peter 3:18 KJB)

Jesus Christ is our ONLY WAY to God and heaven.

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

(John 14:6 KJB)

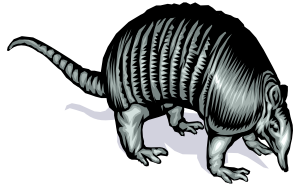
Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved. (Acts 16:31 KJB)

Without Jesus Christ, you can NEVER be accepted by God or go to heaven. When you believe in Jesus Christ as your Savior, God makes you His child. When you leave this world, you will spend all of eternity with Him! *But as many as received him to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.* (John 1:12 KJB) While you are still here on earth, learn His beautiful Word. Believe it and obey it, so you can enjoy all God has done for you.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom.

(Colossians 3:16a KJB)

Did you ever see



AN ARMADILLO?

An ARMADILLO is a very unusual looking mammal. The body of the adult armadillo is COVERED with a HARD SHELL of PLATES made out of hard bone. In fact, the armadillo looks like he is wearing a suit of ARMOR! Its' HARD OUTER SHELL which looks like ARMOR is a PROTECTIVE covering. The armadillo is not a very fast-moving animal or powerful creature. And it most likely does not do much fighting back when attacked by enemies. Sometimes it may look pretty slow & helpless! But its' HARD OUTER SHELL protects it from its' enemies even if it is standing still! Its' outer armor is its' DEFENSE against its' enemies! God sure did give all armadillos a great blessing by giving them such strong armor to protect them from their enemies!

Well, as we have been learning, God has also given ALL His children a suit of armor! And this armor sure is a great blessing - especially to His children who learn how to use it! Of course, as we have said before, the armor that God gives His children CANNOT be seen with our eyes. It is NOT like the armor of the armadillo which covers its' body. God gives ALL His children a suit of armor for their SOULS - their minds - their thinking! And

as we said before, if we USE God's armor for our thinking, it will end up protecting our bodies many times too! You see, in this world, all God's children have a powerful ENEMY - SATAN! Once we have believed in Jesus as our Savior, we become God's children. Satan knows he can NEVER take us out of God's family (John10:29 KJB), but he knows that if we do not put on our ARMOR from God, he CAN lead us to keep on disobeying God & then make one



BIG MESS out of our lives.. He can get us to fret & worry & give in to all his temptations!

Satan LOVES to get us to DOUBT GOD'S PROMISES to care for us! Satan LOVES to cause us to be AFRAID when troubles come our way! And of course, when we are AFRAID, we certainly CANNOT think clearly. When we are AFRAID, we certainly CANNOT make good decisions!

Now God knows that Satan is smarter & stronger than even the smartest & strongest person in this world! We could NEVER resist Satan's temptations on our own! But God loves us SO MUCH, that He has given us POWERFUL ARMOR to PROTECT us from all Satan's schemes! He has given us the way to be more intelligent & stronger than Satan! HOW? Well, let's see! Who is the ONLY ONE PERSON who is MORE INTELLIGENT &

STRONGER than Satan? Why, the Lord Jesus Christ - God, of course! And God says that we can THINK LIKE JESUS! We can HAVE THE MIND OF CHRIST by reading & studying our King James Bible & BELIEVING IT! (Phil 2:5KJB;) The Bible is EVERYTHING JESUS wants us to KNOW! And when we THINK LIKE JESUS, we are thinking MORE INTELLIGENTLY than Satan! And when we simply BELIEVE & WANT TO OBEY GOD'S WORD, THE HOLY SPIRIT, who lives in ALL believers (1John4:4), WILL GIVE US POWER TO BE STRONG ENOUGH to RESIST our enemy Satan - even in times when we feel really WEAK! Read Isaiah 40:29-21! God says that there is only ONE WAY that we can be STRONGER THAN SATAN!



Here it is:
"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might." Ephesians 6:10 KJB

And HOW can we be STRONG IN THE LORD, AND IN THE POWER OF HIS MIGHT against the devil & all his armies? Here is how: Eph 6:11-12 KJB

"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles (schemes, tricks) of the devil.

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against

the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*."

We have already learned about some of the pieces of armor God provides His children to defend themselves against Satan's schemes to get God's children to disobey & not believe God. In order to be ready to learn about the next important piece of the armor, let's review Ephesians 6:13-16 KJB first.

"Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

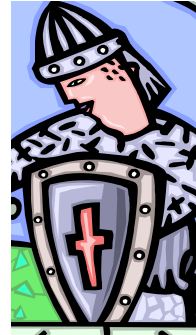
And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Above all, taking the shield of faith, where-with ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked."

Of course, if you have forgotten what some of this armor means, please review the past lessons which explain them. And now, Ephesians 6:17a tells us what our next very important piece of armor is:



"And take the helmet of salvation..."



What does a helmet do? It PROTECTS our HEADS! And what is INSIDE our heads? Why, our BRAINS - our MINDS of course! And what are our BRAINS used for? We use our brains for

THINKING!
LEARNING!
DECIDING!

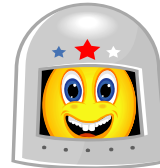
(At least we SHOULD use our brains for these things!)



Well, God wants to PROTECT our MINDS! He wants to PROTECT how we think because what we think influences what we do! He wants to PROTECT what we put into our minds to learn! God wants to PROTECT our decisions so that we make GOOD ONES - the ones HE wants us to make! And by the way, the decisions GOD wants us to make in life are THE ONLY decisions that will lead to a GOOD life! Read Proverbs chapters 2 & 3 & Eph 2:10!

So we see that God's helmet is to PROTECT our thinking! What part of our THINKING does God want to PROTECT? Let's read Ephesians 6:17a again to find out:

"And take the helmet of salvation..."

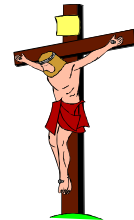


WHAT is SALVATION & WHY will knowing the truth about it PROTECT our thinking? Let's answer the 1st question 1st! What is salva-

tion? First of all salvation is God SAVING us from spending eternity in the Lake of Fire! God says that ALL of mankind are BORN SINNERS (Romans 5:12). None of us can make ourselves HOLY like God; therefore, NONE of us could ever be accepted into heaven by our own efforts. Because of our SIN NATURE & OUR SINS, God's PERFECT LAW says that all of us really DESERVE to be punished in the Lake of Fire, excluded from heaven & separated from the Holy God forever. That's what we really DESERVE! **BuT!** God loves us so much that He sent JESUS to SAVE us from this awful end! When Jesus died on the cross, He paid for the sins of the WHOLE WORLD! Jesus took the sins of the WHOLE WORLD out of the way forever! God is NOT holding our sins against us! 2 Corinthians 5:19-21 tells us this. Here is what John 1:29 says about Jesus:

“Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”

And now God says that ANYONE AT ALL who simply BELIEVES IN JESUS CHRIST as their Savior, is SAVED FOREVER from that awful end! Read Ephesians 2:8-9 KJB too.



“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.” Acts 16:31 KJB

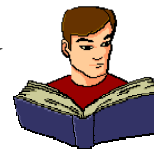
And God says that once a person makes that ONE DECISION to accept Jesus as his or her Savior, that person is SAVED FOREVER no matter how many more sins or mistakes that person makes! Once

God gives us ETERNAL SALVATION, NO ONE & NOTHING can cause us to lose it because JESUS is the one who KEEPS us SAVED FOREVER!

"Wherefore he (Jesus) is able also to save them to the uttermost (forever) that come unto God by him (Jesus), seeing he (Jesus) liveth to make intercession for them." Hebrews 7:25 KJB

Remember! Each of the pieces of armor speak of Jesus & His TRUTH! So when we KNOW the TRUTH about SALVATION, that TRUTH is like a HELMET which PROTECTS our thinking! Believers who DO NOT realize that Jesus is the One who KEEPS them saved, go through life WORRYING & BEING AFRAID that they still might end up in the Lake of Fire! Satan LOVES to make God's children WORRY! Now of course these believers will NOT end up there because JESUS KEEPS THEM SAVED, but they sure won't be joyful in this world like God wants them to be! John 16:10-11; Hab 3:18-19a; Psa 16:11; Psa 118:14-15 KJB The MORE we learn God's TRUTH about SALVATION, the STRONGER our HELMET to protect our thinking will be! Salvation is your ABSOLUTE HOPE FOR ETERNITY! See 1Thessalonians 5:8!

So OPEN YOUR BILBE & start learning more of what God says about SALVATION & your THINKING will be PROTECTED!



Besides giving us ETERNAL salvation from the Lake of Fire when we believe in Jesus, God ALSO saves His children from lots of things IN this world too as they live for Him each day. Read Psa 18 & 34:19; Isa 12:2-5. It is REALLY IMPORTANT for us to know the TRUTH about GOD'S SALVATION! Put your HELMET on every day!

GRACE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Pastor John A. Ricci

Sunday Morning Service

10:00 A.M.

Sunday Transportation Service ~ Call 24 hours Prior

Weekly Services

Wednesday & Friday Evenings, 7:30 P.M.

Prayer Meeting

Wednesday & Friday Evenings, 7:00-7:20 P.M.

Communion Service

First Sunday of Every Month

Children's Prep School (Ages 5-14) & Mother's Room

Available for Every Service

Email

info@gracecfellowship.org

Directions

From I-95

- RI Exit #22; *Left* at split to **Rt. 6 W.**
- Take Killingly St (Rt. 128) Exit; *Right* off Exit.
- Take Killingly to end; *Right* on Manton Ave; cross bridge.
- Turn *Left* at light (CVS on corner), and then bear *Left* at the split. You are now on Woonasquatucket Ave.
- Go about 1 mi.
- **G.C.F.** is on the *Left*.

From Rt. 146

- Mineral Spring Ave Exit in Providence.
- From **146 N** turn *Left* off Exit; from **146 S** turn *Right*.
- Take Mineral Spring to end and stay *Left* around the rotary (pass North Providence Town Hall).
- Take next *Right* onto Woonasquatucket Ave.
- Go about 1½ mi.
- **G.C.F.** is on the *Right*.



Grace Christian Fellowship

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