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## Wearing His Salvation



Part 5 (990117AM)

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John Gibson Paton, (1824-1907) was a pioneer Presbyterian missionary to the New Hebrides, a group of islands in the southwest Pacific (now Vanuata). He was born at Kirkmahoe, Dumfriesshire (Scotland), Paton was educated in theology and medicine at the University of Glasgow while serving as a city missionary (1847-1856). Ordained in 1858, he and his bride sailed to the southwest Pacific to begin work among the savage cannibals on the island of Tanna. On November 5<sup>th</sup> 1858 John Paton and his wife Mary Ann waded ashore a remote island in the Pacific Ocean. The Island of Vanuatu was then inhabited only by fierce cannibals. The ship which ferried the Patons up a thousand miles north from New Zealand would not even drop anchor because of the reputation of the savages. So all alone, thirty four year old John and his bride rowed to their place of ministry. In his journal Paton says his heart was overflowing with joy as they set foot on the jungle shore. That joy would soon find refining in the fires of great affliction.

Just over three months later on February 12<sup>th</sup> little Peter Robert their first child was born. In the hot and bug infested jungle Mary did not recover from the pangs of birth. First came severe fever, then dehydration and nausea and finally pneumonia and delirium. As the baby greeted his third week of life, his mother died. In the wet soil of the rain forest John knelt to dig a shallow grave with his own hands. There he laid his wife's lifeless body to await the resurrection.

Sleeping on the grave to keep her precious remains from being dug up and eaten by the cannibals he tried to care for his infant son. It was useless, little Peter followed his mother in less than three more weeks.

On his knees again beside the fresh grave of his wife John Paton wrote that with ceaseless tears mixed with earnest prayers he claimed that island for the gospel of Jesus Christ as his hands dug a tiny grave. After almost four years of faithful work he left the island without seeing a single convert.

Many years later his son by another marriage resumed work on Tanna and eventually saw the entire island come to Christ. Many years later Paton revisited the island. He was greeted by the chief of the former cannibals who asked him who the great army was that had surrounded his hut every night when he first came among them. John Paton knew it had to be God's angels who had protected him. Because of his faithful work and that of his son, when he left the New Hebrides for the last time, after ministering on another island as well, it is reported that he said with tearful eyes, "I don't know of one native on these islands who has not made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ."<sup>[1]</sup>

What kept missionary John Paton from quitting, becoming embittered or even abandoning his faith in Christ? One thing alone. He had taken salvation as a helmet. He wore his helmet of salvation and thus his heart and mind were kept even in the most severe troubles.

- How can we have a consistent Christian life with all the pressures that are weighing in on us?
- How can we have that degree of holiness so that we feel that access that God talks about and wishes for us to have?
- How can we know victory?
- How can we overcome those persistent doubts that so often beset us?
- How can we rise above the weaknesses that seem to be built right in - the inherent weaknesses that are part of our humanity and flesh?
- How can we overwhelm indifference? I think that is a key question that needs to be answered because so many Christians, after the first year or so of kind of meteoric rise, drift down into Christian indifference, which is such a plague in the church today.
- How can we defeat discouragement? That terrible, kind of gloomy blanket that comes over our Christian lives, like we just can't make it - we just can't fulfill our role as a father or as a godly mother or as a teacher or as a leader or whatever. It just seems like we get discouraged about that.
- How do we find in our lives the living up to God's expectations and how do we fulfill His desires for us?

We must wear our Armor.

Text: [Ephesians 6:10-17](#)

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.<sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.<sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.<sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.<sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,<sup>15</sup> and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;<sup>16</sup> above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.<sup>17</sup> And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

Remember, Armor for Paul was more than pictures from daily life of the nearly omnipresent Roman Legionnaires. Very literally, the "whole armor of God" he describes is a picture of Jesus Christ. In these verses Paul gives a list of the combat equipment that the Holy Spirit issues to every believer at the moment of salvation. By faith and obedient experience we find:

1. **We wear his Truth as our belt of truthfulness.** [John 14:6](#) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me. Christ, saturates us with word of God and it becomes part of our very life.
2. **We wear his Righteousness as our breastplate.** [1 Corinthians 1:30](#) But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,
3. **We wear his Peace as our shoes of peace.** [Ephesians 2:14](#) For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one, and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall,
4. **We wear his Faith as our shield of faith.** [Ephesians 2:8-9](#) For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,<sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast.
5. **We wear his Salvation as our helmet.** [Philippians 4:7](#) And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

So in the truest way, when we trusted Christ, we received Him as our armor. Paul told the Romans "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" ([Rom. 13:14](#)). By faith, put on the armor and trust God for the victory. Once and for all, we have put on the armor at the moment of salvation. But there must be a daily renewal. When King David put off his armor and returned to his palace, he was in greater danger than when he was on the battlefield (2 Sam. 11). We are never out of reach of Satan's devices, so we must never be without the whole armor of God.

1. **Belt of Truth.** Warning: *Dishonesty brings defeat!*
2. **Breastplate of Righteousness.** The breastplate was a heavy piece of armor that completely surrounded the body. To the Christian soldier this means a pursuit of personal, daily righteousness. We learn this can only be maintained by confession and repentance of sin. Warning: *Impurity will bring defeat!*
3. **Shoes of Peace.** The sandal soles of the soldier were impregnated with heavy, spike-like hobnails which gave him a good footing. To the Christian soldier this piece of armor is a call to both "readiness" and "peace of mind." Warning: *Anxiety brings defeat!*
4. **Shield of Faith.** To a Roman soldier, his shield was a portable metal banded door which he hid behind in battle. This shield served as the deflector from the flaming darts of the enemy. To the Christian soldier faith extinguishes all the flaming missiles of the evil one. Warning: *Doubt brings defeat!*
5. **Helmet of Salvation.** This helmet is laying hold on what Christ did for us in salvation. It means use what you received at the new birth. Believe God. Believe Him at His Word! A Roman soldier wouldn't go to battle without a helmet. That would be foolish. Helmets were made out of two things: leather, with some patches of metal on it, or solid cast metal. A soldier never was far from his helmet. Nearly any object on the battle field could immobilize a soldier if his head was unprotected. So to the Christian soldier the meaning of the helmet is assurance of salvation. Warning: *Lack of assurance brings defeat!*

**The helmet of salvation (v. 17).** Our text is divided here because the Greek word **take** is an imperative, rather than another participle. This parallels the imperative "stand" in verse 14. The helmet and sword are the last two pieces a soldier takes up. A helmet, being hot and uncomfortable, would be put on by a soldier only when he faced impending danger. Having one's head guarded by a helmet gives a sense of safety, so the helmet of salvation refers to both:

- Our present safety from the devil's attacks and
- To a future deliverance, "the hope of salvation as a helmet" ([1 Thessalonians 5:8](#) But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.)
- Our Salvation is only through Christ. God's powerful hand has come let down to lift men up. His salvation brings deliverance
- From sin ([Matthew 1:21](#) "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."),
- From lostness ([Matthew 18:11](#) "For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.), and

- From the wrath of God ([Romans 5:9](#) Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.).
- Satan wants to attack our minds, the way he attacked and defeated Eve (Gen. 3; [2 Cor. 11:1-3](#)). So this helmet refers to our minds controlled by God. When God controls the mind, Satan cannot lead the believer astray.
- We need to be "taught by Him as the truth is in Jesus" ([Eph. 4:21](#)).
- We are to "grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" ([2 Peter 3:18](#)).

Notice that in each place the apostles planted churches, they taught the new converts the truths of the Word of God, and this helmet protected them from Satan's lies.

The helmet of salvation does not refer to being saved. Paul is not saying that after fighting Satan by donning the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes of the gospel of peace, and the shield of faith, you should get saved. That's already happened.

We're not in God's army unless we're a believer. To be fighting Satan, you have to be on God's side ([Matt. 12:30](#)).

So what is it God wants us to lay hold on? What was so great about being saved? Has over familiarity stolen the wonder of it all? Five things come to my mind.

With our helmet we again remember. We received His Peace because the War is ended

- [Romans 5:1](#) Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: (KJV)
- [Isaiah 57:20-21](#) But the wicked *are* like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. *There is* no peace, saith my God, to the wicked. (KJV)
- [Romans 8:7](#) Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. (KJV)
- [Ephesians 2:15-17](#) Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *even* the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances; for to make in himself of two one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. (KJV)

With our helmet we again remember We received His Presence because the Veil was opened

[Romans 5:2](#) By whom also we have access by faith... (KJV)

- In the Past there was Fear: [Exodus 28:35](#) And it shall be upon Aaron to minister: and his sound shall be heard when he goeth in unto the holy *place* before the LORD, and when he cometh out, that he die not. (KJV)
- In the Present we have Free Access: [Matthew 27:51](#) And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in two from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; (KJV); [Hebrews 6:19-20](#) Which *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; Whither the forerunner is for us entered, *even* Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedech. (KJV)
- For the Future we have Great Boldness (Confidence): [Hebrews 4:15](#) For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities: but was in all points tempted like as *we are*, yet without sin. (KJV)

With our helmet we again remember We received His Promise because we have a Hope for the Future.

- We have an Enduring Hope. [Romans 5:2b-5a](#) into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only *so*, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; (KJV)
- We have a rejoicing Hope. [Romans 8:29-30](#) For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. (KJV)

With our helmet we again remember We received His Prevailing Love because He lives within us.

- His love has been POURED OUT: [Romans 5:5b-8](#) because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (KJV)
- His Love is now OVERFLOWING: [John 7:38-39](#) He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet *given*; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.) (KJV)

With our helmet we again remember We received His Power To Deliver Us BECAUSE HIS SPIRIT IS WITHIN US

[Romans 5:9-10](#) Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. 10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. (KJV)

So what will taking this helmet do for us?

Beautifies us through life: [Psalm 149:4](#) For the Lord takes pleasure in His people: He will beautify the humble with salvation.

**Clothes us with joy** [Isaiah 61:10](#) I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

**Satisfies us to the end:** [Luke 2:28-31](#) he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: 29 "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word; 30 For my eyes have seen Your salvation 31 Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples,

**Guards us unto heaven** [1 Peter 1:5](#) who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Wow, won't you agree its a great salvation? Have we gotten a little over familiar with it? Join me in singing "My Jesus I love you" thanking Him for what He did. Ask your self about your time with Him this week.

- Can you hold him a little tighter, closer and dearer?
- Will you notice Him more through the day?
- Talk to Him more? I hope so!

Salvations many pictures

- **A rock** [Deuteronomy 32:15](#) "But Jeshurun grew fat and kicked: You grew fat, you grew thick, You are obese! Then he forsook God who made him, And scornfully esteemed the Rock of his salvation. [2 Samuel 22:47](#) "The Lord lives! Blessed be my Rock! Let God be exalted, The Rock of my salvation! [Psalm 95:1](#) Oh come, let us sing to the Lord! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.
- **A tower.** [2 Samuel 22:51](#) He is the tower of salvation to is king, And shows mercy to His anointed, To David and his descendants forevermore."
- **A helmet.** [Isaiah 59:17](#) For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, And a helmet of salvation on His head; He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, And was clad with zeal as a cloak.
- **A shield.** [2 Samuel 22:36](#) "You have also given me the shield of Your salvation; Your gentleness has made me great.
- **A lamp.** [Isaiah 62:1](#) For Zion's sake I will not hold My peace, And for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, Until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, And her salvation as a lamp that burns.
- **A cup.** [Psalm 116:13](#) I will take up the cup of salvation, And call upon the name of the Lord.
- **Clothing.** [2 Chronicles 6:41](#) "Now therefore, Arise, O Lord God, to Your resting place, You and the ark of Your strength. Let Your priests, O Lord God, be clothed with salvation, And let Your saints rejoice in goodness.

1. [Psalm 132:16](#) I will also clothe her priests with salvation, And her saints shall shout aloud for joy.
2. [Psalm 149:4](#) For the Lord takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the humble with salvation.
3. [Isaiah 61:10](#) I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

- **Wells.** [Isaiah 12:3](#) Therefore with joy you will draw water From the wells of salvation.
- **Walls and bulwarks.** [Isaiah 26:1](#) In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: "We have a strong city; God will appoint salvation for walls and bulwarks. [Isaiah 60:18](#) Violence shall no longer be heard in your land, Neither wasting nor destruction within your borders; But you shall call your walls Salvation, And your gates Praise.

1. [1 Corinthians 15:57-58](#) But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

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[1]MacArthur, John F., *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary*, (Chicago: Moody Press) 1983.

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