

Ephesians 6:17-The Church's Armor: Salvation and the Word

Hendriksen, Henry, Trapp, TSK, GreekLexicon, Gill, JFB, Robertson, Poole, Rienecker, Geneva, Clarke, Calvin, Barnes, Handfuls, Gaebelein, Eclectic, Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ: Spiritual warfare is real and your enemy is most dangerous. He will attack you personally and he will fight to stop the spread of your Savior's kingdom. So spiritual warfare is required. Because God cares for his children and his kingdom, he provides all the weapons his children need to fight.

Today you will hear of two more of the weapons God has graciously placed in your armory so you can fight the Devil.

Our headings are:

You fight with hope of Salvation

You fight with the Word of God

Our goals are: **That you will be thankful for, and use the armor the Lord has given you, to fight to protect yourself and to conquer the world for Jesus.**

You fight with the hope Salvation

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

1. Christians were called to fight with the helmet of salvation just as a Roman soldier had to fight with his helmet.

2. How was the helmet to be used?

a. The Roman soldier used his helmet to protect his life or protect himself from serious head injuries.

This helmet also helped to **keep the soldier's head erect**. These helmets were mostly **made from bronze** – or really thick leather. They were quite **heavy and expensive**. Of course the **head commanded the body so it had to be protected as much as the heart was protected** to keep the soldier alive. Only an axe or a hammer could destroy a bronze helmet.

b. Similarly, the Ephesian Christians had to wear the helmet of salvation to protect themselves from the evil one as they lived as Christians and as they worked to spread the message of Jesus around the world.

c. But to get the full meaning, you have to identify what this “salvation” is!

Look at the parallel passage so you can get a better sense of what this salvation is.

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**.

Now look how this salvation is worn by Jesus on his head.

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.

Even the name “Jesus” means “God is salvation.”

“Salvation” therefore represents the hope of eternal life (heaven) in Jesus Christ and that hope keeps you fighting.

3. So just as necessary as the helmet was to the Roman soldier to fight against Rome’s physical enemies, just so the hope of salvation was necessary for the Ephesians Christians to fight against his spiritual enemies.

A man with hope of life would not have cared if he died fighting for the right cause!

4. Lessons:

a. Don’t you dare attempt to fight the dangerous and deceitful Devil without the hope of salvation. The Devil is too dangerous. He has his axe ready for battle against you. The hope of your salvation makes you face him and not turn and run. So even if your body died, your soul has salvation and you would get a new body!

b. The one who has the hope of salvation – a salvation for eternity – and the one who knows the Lord will never leave him nor forsake him, you will fight! For sure no soldier fights well without a hope of victory. You have unquestionable assurance by the one who is willing and able to make you win! Heaven is guaranteed. John 14.

c. Help your Christian brothers whose helmets are not on correctly. You are fighting on the same side. Keep a watch out for others who struggle with doubts about their salvation. Help the one who is afraid. And don’t beat up your Arminian brother because he is not sure of his salvation. Remind them that those who have eternal life can never perish and no one can snatch them out of the hand of God. This is essential, as fighting in detached parties is deadly. (And you have to fight!)

d. Attend conferences that offer faithful instruction. Listen to more sound teaching. Get good lectures on YouTube. Ask for recommendations if you need some. Your hope of heaven must be strong! Work to strengthen it.

You fight with the Word of God

1. Christians were to fight with the Sword of the Spirit just as the Roman soldiers had to fight with their sharp swords.

2. How was this sharp sword used?

a. The Roman soldier faced many harsh battles and his enemy rarely stopped attacking, so he needed a sharp sword to destroy his enemies. No soldier would have

considered himself armed if he did not have his sword. Even with a spear, he did not feel equipped.

b. Now you must identify what this sharp sword was to the Ephesian Christian, and Apostle Paul does that for you. The sharp sword is the Word of God – the whole Bible.

2 Peter 1:21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

God's word is filled with God's directions for life and war, and with God's promises for those who fight the Devil and his demons. So this "Word" is distinct from the "Gospel" you heard about earlier which was the message of Christ of the cross.

c. So the Ephesian Christians had to have the Word of God with them wherever they went. This was how they were going to win. They had to fight with conviction, leading to conversion.

Isaiah 11:4 But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall **strike the earth with the rod of His mouth**, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.

Revelation 19:15 Now **out of His mouth goes a sharp sword**, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

3. So how were Ephesian Christians to use the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God?

a. The Ephesian Christians had to wield the sword to show people their sins and how they could be saved. They had to remember that the Bible is called a "two-edged sword." This means it cuts on both sides. And they had to use it with that in mind! The two edges were **the law and the Gospel**. The law cuts the heart that it is sinful. The Gospel convinces the sinner to embrace the Savior.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and **sharper than any two-edged sword**, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Isaiah 49:2 And He has made **My mouth like a sharp sword**; In the shadow of His hand He has hidden Me, And made Me a polished shaft; In His quiver He has hidden Me."

Using the sword was so important, they had to sing about it...which committed it to their memory.

Psalms 149:6 **Let the high praises of God be in their mouth**, And a **two-edged sword in their hand**,

b. They had to use the Word of God to guide those whom they conquered for Jesus.

2Timothy 3: 16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

c. They had to dismiss any other book that conflicted with the Word of God...as those books would only keep men in their misery and enslavement to the Devil.

4. Lessons:

a. You must meet the tempter with the Word of God! Look at a most personal illustration of how to use the Sword of the Spirit – the Word of God.

Matthew 4:4 But He answered and said, "**It is written**, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" 7 Jesus said to him, "**It is written again**, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'" 10 Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! **For it is written**, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"

b. The Devil will tempt everyone! You are not immune. He will try to make you doubt that you and the church can win. Doesn't it look that way now...doesn't the church look weak, as if it were losing? But it won't! It can't! If, however, you doubt the church can thrive and be victorious, you won't work as hard as you should.

c. So study the Word of God. Have texts of Scripture at your finger tips so you can answer any situation.

Psalms 45:3 **Gird Your sword upon Your thigh**, O Mighty One, With Your glory and Your majesty.

Is there an ethical conundrum? Know what the Word teaches about that situation. Wondering if you should marry that nominal Christian? Know what the Word teaches. Thinking about how to educate your children? Know what the Word teaches.

d. Guard against rationalizing. This is one of the biggest weapons the Devil uses against God's children.

"He may not be a Christian, but he has money to take care of me and my parents if I married him."

"If I work on Sunday, won't I have more money to give to the church and the poor?"

"If I live and talk like my co-workers, it will bring me closer to them and I can then tell them about what I believe."

Remember Eve's trouble: When she saw she could be wise...and become like God...and it was good for food...she picked of the fruit and ate...and died...and you with her.

Rationalizing will hurt the expansion of Christ's kingdom.

e. The man who plays with sin is like a soldier who throws away his sword and tries to fight with his bare hands! He will not only endanger his life, but the life of this fellow soldiers.

f. Take the time to train your youths in knowing and using the Word of God. This is the time when they learn best. Save their lives. Serve them the Word of God...a good helping...each day.

Conclusion:

In order to fight the Devil, protect yourself, and advance the kingdom of Jesus Christ, you must have the hope of salvation and the Word of God. The hope of salvation gives the confidence and motivation to battle for Jesus. The Word of God leads men to God and guides them in God. The Word of God gives answers to every situation in life.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Do you want to fight for your Savior? I hope you do.

2. If you don't, you need to reflect on what the Lord Jesus did for you in his life and on the cross. He gave you salvation!

3. Take the time to know the Word and learn how to use the Word of God. Nothing makes a Christian look sillier than not being able to answer even basic questions about what the Bible teaches! You can't lead people out of darkness into light if you don't know how to turn the light on!

4. Prepare your children from youth. (If they don't know the Gospel by 6, you face an uphill battle!) Let them hear the message of Jesus. Let them learn how they can be saved. Teach them to fight! Yes, teach your children to fight with the Sword of the Spirit. How would a parent feel if his child were killed in war because he didn't know how to use the powerful automatic gun he had? Imagine how much worse that parent would feel if his child did not know to use the spiritual weapon the Lord entrusted to his care!

Finally, if you don't know Jesus as your Savior, you are his enemy! Let him conquer you with the Word of God – showing you your sins and changing your heart from a sinner to a saint. If you don't let him conquer you today, he will destroy you with hell fire. The choice is yours. Make the right one.