Crossroads Church

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Series: Wholly Armed, Part 6

Ephesians 6:17A

Currently, 19 states and the District of Columbia have laws requiring all motorcyclists to wear a helmet, known as universal helmet laws. Laws requiring only *some* motorcyclists to wear a helmet are in place in 28 states. (Insurance Institute for Highway Safety- ([iihs.org](http://iihs.org)).

From the web site of BolingRice.com (legal firm):

*When your case involves injuries to your head, having not worn a DOT helmet at the time of the wreck could impact your case severely.  This often comes up when a rider faces brain damage from the motorcycle accident.  If he or she was not wearing a DOT helmet and the defense can prove that had the right helmet been worn the plaintiff likely would not have received brain injuries or as severe of an injury, the plaintiff could receive no compensation at all.*

Most state governments and insurance providers insist that you protect your head....so does the Bible!

When last we met around this text, we were reminded that God is our shield (Proverbs 30:5; Genesis 15:1) and that we go forth into our battles with faith and trust in God as our shield. Now, we come to this next piece of armor.

“And take the helmet of salvation...”

Martyn Lloyd-Jones says that in verse 16 of this chapter, the language moves from *having* to *taking.* We have been admonished to stand,

*Having* our waists girded with truth

*Having put on* the breastplate of righteousness

*Having* shod our feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace.

We are eager to protect our core (belt), our vital organs (breastplate), our feet (shoes) and our upper torso (shield). Obviously metaphorical, these pieces of spiritual armor help us frame the real battle in which we are engaged. Paul borrows language from Isaiah 59:17, where God is described as the mighty warrior with a helmet of salvation on His head. Here in Ephesians 6, we are to *take* the helmet of salvation*.*

Three understandings of salvation:

1. Past salvation-Ephesians 2:5,8; 5:23
2. Present salvation-
3. Salvation in the future- 1 Thessalonians 5:8

Without doing damage to our text, we could connect verse 17a with verse 16. **Faith** in the God who is trustworthy, will help us as we live out this **salvation**.

A soldier’s helmet, in the first century, was both functional and decorative. It protected the soldier’s head (and all that was in it) and made a statement. Some helmets had plumage and decorative side pieces which protected the cheeks. Some helmets had a hinged visor that came down, to provide added protection for the eyes.

Charles Hodge: *that which adorns and protects the Christian, which enables him to hold up his head with confidence and joy, is the fact that he is saved.* (A Commentary on the Epistle to the Ephesians, p 387-388)

Paul is saying, here in this text, that our salvation (and the assurance of it) is our covering.

Satan desires to control our minds. Let’s cover our heads.

2 Corinthians 11:1-3

*Oh, that you would bear with me in a little folly—and indeed you do bear with me.* ***2****For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.* ***3****But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.*

Let’s speak of the mind for a few minutes. Let’s talk of that which the helmet protects. How does Satan attack the mind?

1. **By causing us to think non-virtuously.**

Philippians 4:8

**8***Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.*

We put up a strong defense against the evil one when we fill our minds with thoughts of virtue and good and holiness. Satan would prefer that our minds be filled with items on his agenda:

Falsehood, injustice, impurity, ugliness, things of bad report. Satan’s agenda is the exact opposite of God’s. If he can get us to fill our minds with his items, he has won. A second way Satan can attack the mind is-

 2. **By** **wearing us down and making us think there is no hope.**

Have you ever looked at your life, your ministry, your home situation or your job and concluded *it’s hopeless*? That is the work of our enemy.

**Illus.**

Say not the Struggle Nought Availeth

BY [ARTHUR HUGH CLOUGH](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/arthur-hugh-clough)

*Say not the struggle nought availeth,*

*The labour and the wounds are vain,*

*The enemy faints not, nor faileth,*

*And as things have been they remain.*

Have you ever felt like that? Are your labors and wounds seemingly vain? Does it appear that your enemies do not faint or fail? That’s the devil’s work: to make us think all our best efforts are for naught.

Listen to the last stanza of Arthur Hugh Clough’s poem:

...

*And not by eastern windows only,*

*When daylight comes, comes in the light,*

*In front the sun climbs slow, how slowly,*

*But westward, look, the land is bright.*

I hear this same Paul in Galatians 6:9:

*And let us not grow weary while doing good for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.*

**One of Satan’s most-used tools is discouragement.**

**He aims to get inside our heads. Let us put our helmets on.**

**Closing**

George Adams has said,

What you *think* means more than anything else in your life. More than what you earn, more than where you live, more than your social position, and more than what anyone else may think about you” (George Adams, in “Bits & Pieces” [11/84], p. 15).

Actor Samuel L. Jackson likes to ask, in a commercial, “What’s in *your* wallet?”

I want to ask, “What’s in your head?”

Amen