



Weekly Devotional

February 18, 2008

The Helmet Of Salvation

“And take the helmet of salvation” (Eph. 6:17).

I recently read an article about the Advanced Combat Helmet, called the ACH, which has been issued to all our soldiers in Iraq. The ACH, which has replaced the old Kevlar helmet, is 3.5 pounds lighter than the old helmet. The new product delivers the world’s most advanced ballistic and impact head protection. And, because it is cushioned on the inside and is designed with an innovative suspension system, it offers unsurpassed comfort for long-term use.

The helmet worn by the Roman soldier of the New Testament era, and the helmet that is mentioned in this list of the Christian soldiers’ armor, was a simple metal helmet held on the head by a leather strap. The purpose of this headpiece, of course, was to protect the head from both deadly arrows and dangerous swords. Apparently, the helmet was not worn at all times, but every soldier knew better than to enter a conflict without this covering.

This subject is only mentioned twice in the Apostle Paul’s writings, but in both cases he associates it with the truth of salvation. Here, we are instructed to “take the helmet of salvation.” In the other reference, we are taught, “But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation” (1 Thess. 5:8). The helmet seems to be our hope of salvation and deliverance in the battle.

The helmet safeguards our minds in the battle! A soldier whose thoughts are elsewhere does not need to be fighting a war. His life and the lives of those around him are endangered by his wandering mind. Similarly, if we are “double-minded” (James 1:8), we are not trustworthy in spiritual warfare. The helmet of salvation helps us guard our thoughts. As the prophet explained, “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee” (Isa. 26:3).

The helmet secures our movement in the battle! The movement of the physical body is governed by the head. If a soldier does not wear his helmet, his head may be damaged in the battle, causing his body to fail in its operations and possibly causing death. In spiritual warfare, to keep from being “shaken in mind” or “troubled” (2 Thess. 2:2), and to assure forward movement in the battle, we must be arrayed with the helmet of salvation.

The helmet strengthens our motivation in the battle! When a soldier’s mind-set and thought pattern is wholesome, and his body is working properly due to a sound mind, his attitude toward the military conflict is an asset, not a liability. When Christian soldiers exhibit “the mind of Christ” (1 Cor. 2:16), their presence is a great motivation for everyone. May we “stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel” (Phil. 1:27).