

“Helmet of Hope”

Ephesians 6; Romans 7; 8; Titus 1; 2 Corinthians 4

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Hope as a powerful force in our lives
 - Proverbs 13:12-- *“Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but when the desire comes, it is a tree of life.”*
- The perils of hopelessness
- The piece of spiritual armor to guard against hopelessness?
 - Ephesians 6:14-17-- *“Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”*
- What is the “*helmet of salvation*”?
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:6-8-- *“Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. 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.”*

“Helmet of Hope”

A. What is the “Hope of our Salvation”?

1. The HOPE of a REDEEMED BODY

a. Our present struggle with habitual sin.

- Romans 7:14-24-- *“For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. If then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. But now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?”*

1) What we want to do, we do not do; but what we do not want to do, that’s what we do.

2) The struggles of the two “laws” working within our bodies

3) Ultimate victory through Jesus Christ.

- Romans 7:25-- *“I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!”*

b. Our Salvation is in three-phases:

1) **Past-- PENALTY** of sin

2) **Present-- POWER** of sin

- Romans 8:10-11 -- *“And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”*
- Romans 8:13-- *“For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.”*

3) **Future-- PRESENCE of sin**

- Romans 8:22-25-- *"For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Not only that, but we also who have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly awaiting the adoption, the redemption of our body. For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance."*
- 1 John 3:2 -- *"Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is."*
- Philippians 3:20-21 -- *"Our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it might be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself."*

2. **The HOPE of REWARDED SERVICE**

- a. Present struggle with lack of visible results
- b. The future hope of rewards for service.
 - 1 Corinthians 15:58-- *"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."*

3. **The HOPE of ETERNAL LIFE.**

- Titus 1:1-3-- *"Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgement of the truth, which accords with godliness, in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began, but has in due time manifested His word through preaching, which was committed to me according to the commandment of God our Savior."*
- a. **Satan's lie:** We can lose our salvation.
 - b. **Realization of this "blessed hope"**
 - 1) *"Eternal life"* is our present possession.
 - 1 John 5:11-13-- *"And this is the testimony: God has given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God."*
 - 2) Full expression and experience of eternal life is still future.
 - Ephesians 1:11-- *"In Him also we have obtained an inheritance"*
 - 1 Peter 1:4-- *"an inheritance, incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."*
 - 3) The glories of eternal living cannot be fully described.
 - 1 Corinthians 2:9-10-- *"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him. But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit."*
 - 4) We can experience a foretaste of heaven when walking in the Spirit.
 - Ephesians 1:13-14-- *"after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also you believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory."*

- 5) When Christ comes again, we will experience the redemption of our bodies. Our service for Him will be rewarded and we will begin to experience in full eternal life. This is our **“Blessed Hope!”**
- 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18-- *the “Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.”*

B. How to put on the “helmet of hope” and endure apparently hopeless situations?

1. Paul’s apparently “hopeless” situation.

- 2 Corinthians 4:8-11-- *“We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus’ sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.”*

2. Paul’s Antidote for hopelessness.

- 2 Corinthians 4:16-18-- *“Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”*

a. He cultivated the inner man.

- 2 Corinthians 4:16-- *“Even though our outward man is perishing, yet our inward man is being renewed day by day.”*
- Colossians 3:10-- *“in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.”*
- 2 Corinthians 3:18-- *“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”*

b. He compared his present struggles with his anticipated rewards.

- 2 Corinthians 4:17-- *“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.”*
- 1) As to difficulty, he calls them *“light afflictions”*.
 - 2 Corinthians 11:23-29 -- *“Are they ministers of Christ? --I speak as a fool—I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes, beyond measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation.”*
 - 2) As to duration, they are temporary in comparison to eternal life.

c. He concentrated on eternity.

- 2 Corinthians 4:18-- *“while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”*
- Colossians 3:2-4 -- *“set our minds on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.”*