

IMPACT

I **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own under-
standing; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: “Ephesians 6:14-15 “...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....”**”

Quote: Salvation is a present possession. In another sense, it is a matter of confident anticipation of that day when we are actually in God’s presence. Our hope will be fully realized either at our death or at Christ’s return! (Romans 8:23-39)

The helmet was a critical part of a Roman soldier’s armor. It enabled him to peer from behind his shield to view the enemy’s movements and to plot strategies for victory. Without a helmet, the soldier would be at a serious disadvantage and far less effective in the battle. Because Paul is writing to Christians, the helmet of salvation must refer to assurance and hope, not to conversion.¹ Spiritual warfare “produces a sense of weariness or of tiredness; so much so that the Christian sometimes feels like giving up the entire battle!”² We must CONCENTRATE on our hope in Christ Who has promised victory to those whose perseverance is evidence of genuine saving faith.

Paul wrote, “Now *hope does not disappoint*, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”⁴ He demonstrated his confidence in the hope of salvation by persevering through intense trials,³ by being a godly example and by focusing upon the return of Christ. “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, *looking for the blessed hope* and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works....”⁵ The writer of Hebrews exhorts us to encourage each other in our hope. “Beware, *brethren*, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in *departing* from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called ‘Today,’

lest any of you be hardened through the *deceitfulness* of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ *if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end.*”⁶ To the Colossians, Paul wrote, “And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—*if indeed you continue in the faith*, grounded and steadfast, and are *not moved away from the hope of the gospel* which you heard....”⁷ We must insulate ourselves from the “mindless” routines of religion by concentrating upon what awaits all whose “*staying power*” reveals the *reality of saving faith* in their lives.⁸ Christ will return!

Paul reminded the Thessalonians of the spiritual warfare in which every believer is engaged. He referenced their “work of faith, labor of love, and *patience of hope* in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father.” He warned them, “Be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.”⁹ In this text, and in I Corinthians 13, Paul ties faith, hope and love together. This faith is resolute trust that leads to convictions based upon God’s Word. This love refers to intentional and often sacrificial acts of practical righteousness for the glory of God and the eternal good of others.¹⁰ Like faith and love, hope is not static. It is strengthened as we purposefully guard our minds and hearts against deceitful teaching, deceptive temptation and discouraging trials. By putting on the helmet of our blessed hope in Christ, we develop and declare steadfast allegiance to Him and confidence *that the best is yet to come for all who are entrusting their eternal souls into His care!*

“The Helmet of Salvation”

1 | Thess.5:8-10 2 | D.M.L. Jones; | John 5:13 3 | Rom.5:5 ; | Jn.3:24 4 | I Cor. 4; 11:23-33 5 | Titus 2:12-14 6 | Heb.3:12-14 7 | Col.1:21-23a 8 | Romans 8:22-25 9 | Thess.1:3; 5:8-11 10 | Cor.10:31-33