

The Whole Armor of God (Part 5—The Helmet of Salvation)

Scripture

“Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 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;” (Eph 6:13-17 NKJV)

Devotion

It is appropriate for that which covers the head to be the helmet of salvation. Faith is critical if we wish to please God. However, if we lack assurance of our salvation, how can we face our many trials by faith? Don't we first have to be secure in our soul?

Peter gives us some insight into how we may grow strong in our assurance. “. . . Giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, [you will be] neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” (2Pe 1:5-11 NKJV)

You see there is a connection between obedience and assurance. You might walk in disobedience in some area in your life and still be a child of God. However, you will not be assured you are His as long as you remain unrepentant. If you say, I walk in sin and still have confidence that I am a Christian then you have built your hope on poor theology for the soul that sins must die. The evidence of salvation is the moving of the Holy Spirit producing fruit in the life of a believer.

This is why Peter says to make your call and election sure. In the context of 2 Peter the way to make your calling sure is to do what is mentioned: Giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.

It bothers me terribly when I hear individuals say, “I have never doubted my salvation.” I must assume one of two things. Either he/she has walked in obedience his/her entire life without any seasons of waywardness to which my soul is put to shame, or he/she has placed his/her faith in something other than the true Gospel.

“Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God. In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor [is] he who does not love his brother.” (1Jo 3:7-10 NKJV)

“Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.” (1Jo 2:3-6 NKJV)

“Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.” (1Jo 5:21 NKJV)