

AND GOD SAYS . . .

Sponsored by the Melrose Alliance Church

It seems that almost everyone who is in a contact sport wears some sort of headgear to protect his head. He does so because he hopes that it will protect him from injury, an injury that could prove fatal.

So it was with the Roman or the Grecian soldier at the time of the apostle Paul when he wrote Ephesians 6:17, and said, “Take the helmet of salvation....” In this passage, Paul is instructing his readers to put on the full armor of God so that they can stand against the Devil and his attacks. I might interject at this point that Paul believed in a real enemy called the Devil. He believed in a real battle that Christians must fight, admonishing his readers at least three times in this passage to “stand” against the Devil’s evil schemes. Therefore, if we are going to have spiritual victory we must first acknowledge that there is a real spiritual enemy.

But back to the helmet of salvation. The apostle also writes in 1 Thessalonians 5:8, that we are to put on “the hope of salvation as a helmet.” The idea is that we are to put on the hope of salvation as the soldier puts on hope when he puts on his helmet. You see, the Grecian and Roman soldier had emblems of hope built into their helmets symbolizing hope for *prosperity*, *safety* and *victory*.

The soldier’s hope was that he would be *prosperous* in all his engagements, that he would gain great spoils. Spiritually, we gain the great spoils of eternal life and peace with God when we come to Christ.

Safety, that he would escape from battle alive and well. In Christ we are secure, sealed by the Holy Spirit, guaranteeing our salvation. We are told that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. We are guaranteed our salvation through Christ by faith.

Victory, the hope of conquering every adversary and surmounting every difficulty. So in Christ we are “more than conquerors.”

Christian brother or sister, do you have your helmet on? Are you living in hope?