

# ARMOR of GOD - Spiritual Warfare Wear

## Week 5 - SALVATION - PROTECTING YOUR MIND

- Week One: Truth – Knowing Right from Wrong
- Week Two: Righteousness – Doing Right from Wrong
- Week Three: Peace – Being at Peace During Battle
- Week Four: Faith - a Flame-Resistant Faith
- Week Five: Salvation - Protecting Your Mind



### **Ephesians 6:10-18**

*<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. <sup>13</sup> Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. <sup>14</sup> Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup> and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

*<sup>18</sup> And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.*

## **1. KEY TERM CONNECTED TO SALVATION: ***FREEDOM*****

- "Salvation" is a term so closely linking to "religion"
- Too often we don't really know what it means...
- "FREEDOM" is a word we can associate with Salvation

### **FREEDOM FROM WHAT?**

**Freedom from the PAST** – the penalty of sin

- Physical Consequences vs. Spiritual Consequences
- Salvation is not a one-time event! It's continuous.

**Freedom for the PRESENT** – the power of sin

- Sin doesn't rule you anymore. You can choose!

**Freedom for the FUTURE** – the presence of sin

- Heaven is a "Sinless" environment (both action AND consequences!)

### **Romans 8:24**

*Now that we are saved, we eagerly look forward to this freedom. For if you already have something, you don't need to hope for it.*

### **Psalms 62:1-2**

*My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken. [Circle "alone."]*

- Not drugs, drinking, money, relationships, possessions, where you live or what you drive...this freedom comes from God alone!

## 2. KEY TERM CONNECTED TO HELMET: **MIND**

- You are a helmet generation: Bikes, skateboards etc. etc.
- **Ray Gary and his Super Huge Football Helmet**

### What does my MIND need protection from?

#### A. **The lies/half truths** (*false hopes of the world*)

- The world says, "Go this way, live this way, do this, do that..." Those are lies, half truths.

#### B. **Impurity**

- Not just LUST! – anger, bitterness, anything that consumes your thoughts and drags you down.

#### C. **Self-deception**

- You convince yourself you're something you're not.
  - **Beautiful** believe that appearance leads to intimacy.
  - **Flatterer** believes empty words build relationships.
  - **Boastful** believes triumphs and trophies lead to acceptance.
  - **Smart** believe they're better than everyone else.
  - **Lonely** believe that true friendship is impossible.
  - **Achievers** believe that victory leads to significance.

#### D. **Doubt**

- You begin to doubt whether you're even a Christian

#### E. **Discouragement**

- If he can get you discouraged, you begin to doubt.
- When you begin to doubt yourself, you begin to deceive yourself.
- When you begin to deceive yourself, you begin to settle for impurity in your mind and you think all kinds of things and you buy into the lies and the half-truths and the false hopes.

### **1 Thessalonians 5:8**

*But let us who live in the light **think clearly** . . . wearing as our helmet the confidence of our salvation [Circle "think clearly."]*

- A lot of churches are really good at teaching the Bible.
- They tell you about God's part and leave you to figure out your part! Guess what?
- God has a part. But you and I also have a part.

***God does the impossible. You and I do the possible.***

## 3. MY PART IN THE BATTLE

### A. I Must Accept God's **FREE GIFT** of Salvation.

#### **Ephesians 2:8**

*God saved you by his special favor when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.*

I want to teach you about Salvation!

**JUSTIFICATION** – Free from the **PAST**, the PENALTY of sin. "*just-as-if-I-had-never-sinned*"

**SANCTIFICATION** – Free for the **PRESENT**, the POWER of sin. That means God's changing you!

**GLORIFICATION** – Free from the **FUTURE**. Your life will be glorified in the presence of God.

## **Galatians 2:20**

*I myself no longer live, but Christ lives in me. So I live my life in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

## **2 Corinthians 5:17**

*If anyone is in Christ, he or she is a new creation. The old has passed away. Behold, the new has come.*

### **B. I Must Examine What I SEE & HEAR.**

- What I'm watching – is it good for me?
- What I'm listening to – is it good for me?
- Who I'm around – are they a good influence on me?

## **1 Corinthians 2:15**

*The spiritual person, on the other hand, can assess the value of everything . . .*

## **Hebrews 5:14**

*But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.” [Underline “trained themselves”]*

I'm not going to give you a list of what I think you should and shouldn't watch. TRAIN YOURSELVES FROM GOD'S WORD

### **C. I Must Allow God's Word to GUIDE ME.**

- Don't use the world's standards! USE GOD'S!
- My job isn't to make anybody feel guilty. My job is to teach you the Bible.

## **Psalms 119:113**

*Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me.*

## **Psalms 119:105**

*Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path. **Cell Phone Light VS Flood Light***

### **D. I Must Be Inspired toward continual GROWTH.**

- In nature – if it's not growing – it's dying!
- If you're not moving forward, you're sliding back.

## **1 Peter 2:2**

*Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation . . .*

## **Romans 6:11-14**

*Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to its lustful desires . . . Instead, give yourselves completely to God since you have been given new life. And use your whole body as a tool to do what is right for the glory of God. Sin is no longer your master . . . Instead; you are free by God's grace.*