

Ephesians 6:16-17 – The Shield and the Helmet

A. Introduction

- Saved

B. The Shield of Faith

- There were two shields carried by Roman soldiers. One was a small round shield used for hand to hand combat. The second shield was rectangular and much larger – four foot by two and a half foot.
- Paul has the second shield in mind here. It was made of wood and covered with hide or metal.
- It covered most of the body and was shaped like a small door.
- Soldiers would interlock their shields making them invincible.
- It was particularly effective against the fiery darts/arrows which could disrupt and kill. They symbolize the attacks of the “evil one”. Satan’s quiver includes temptation, condemnation, blasphemous thoughts, doubts and discouragements.
- God has given the devil permission to the devil to attack us - he has access to our minds. **It is not sinful to be tempted.**
- Faith is central to Ephesians – we are saved by faith and we live by faith (). We defeat the devil’s attacked by faith.
- How do we strengthen faith?
 - ⇒ Faith is active – we are to take up the shield
 - ⇒ Faith if fuelled by Scripture. Faith is “taking God at His Word”.
 - ⇒ Faith is God-centred. Faith is looking away from self to God and His strength. It is not faith in faith, but faith in God. God is our shield ()
 - ⇒ Faith is strengthened by fellowship. Interlocked shields made the soldiers nearly invincible. We need one another – we are in this together (Hebrews 10:).
 - ⇒ Faith is strengthened by trials

C. The Helmet of Salvation

- The helmet was vital protection of the head. Enemies used axes or broad swords to disable the Roman soldier by slicing his head. It was made of metal or leather with metal plates.
- The helmet reminds us of the importance of the Christian mind. We are to be renewed by the transforming of our minds (Romans 12:1-2). What we enter our minds will determine the kind of people we become.
- It is the helmet of Salvation. God is the one who puts on the helmet of Salvation in order to win salvation for His people (**Isaiah**). Salvation is of the Lord ().
- **Romans 8** - Salvation is multi-dimensional
 - ❖ **Past** - There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ (8:1) and He intercedes for us ().
 - ❖ **Present** - God works all things for the good of those who love him and are called according to His purposes (8:28-30).
 - ❖ **Future** -