

## *helmet of salvation* Ephesians 6:17

We have been working through the armour of God piece by piece, and I hope we are seeing how important it is in assisting us to live a consistently holy Christian life. This month we look at the Helmet of Salvation.

The Helmet of Salvation is designed to cover and protect the head. By inference the Helmet of Salvation has the primary function of protecting the MIND of the Christian. Proverbs says; “*as a man thinks so is he.*” How we think has a profound impact on how we behave, and this is why we need to constantly protect our minds from the world, the flesh and the devil.

In Romans 12:1-2 Paul exhorts us to submit our bodies to God. “*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...*”

Again, the importance of putting on the Helmet of Salvation is underlined for us in that we offer our bodies as a living sacrifice to God, being constantly set aside

### **PRAISE the Lord for:**

- His ongoing faithfulness to the Global Challenge ministry and for the care and protection of all our staff
- The various partners we work with from our USA office taking the gospel into places like Cuba, Guatemala and Mexico with the Spanish edition
- Our writers and those who contribute testimonies etc. which we rely on each month for our paper production
- The encouragement we receive via letter, email etc regarding the layout and content of the paper

for God’s use and glory. This includes our minds. But notice that the key to maintaining our bodies as a living sacrifice is the mind.

JB Philip’s paraphrase of Romans 12:2 says; “*Do not let the world squeeze you into it’s mould...*” Critical to preventing this is the renewing of our minds, our thought patterns, our imaginations and our stockpile of memories that are conducive to holy living.

Our English word TRANSFORMED comes from METAMORPHOSIS in the Greek. Renewal of the mind comes from changing the heart; change from the inside out. The tense of the word indicates that renewal of the mind is a present continuous task. Day by day, moment by moment we need to have our minds renewed.

Maintaining this renewal of our minds is dependent upon the reality of feeding our minds with the appropriate material. In Romans 6:12-13 Paul indicates that we are not to offer the various parts of our bodies to be the means of unrighteousness. “*Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.*”

... a  
cyclist’s  
helmet  
protects  
the brain.  
... the  
Christian  
needs  
protection  
for their  
mind!

*Continued over*

**In terms of protecting our minds, it is important that we understand that certain parts of our bodies can be used to fill our minds with all sorts of wrong thoughts and images. Thus the importance of daily offering up our bodies as a living sacrifice to God.**

**So what do we need to be careful of?**

- 1. Firstly we need to be watchful as to what we use our eyes for. What sort of TV, videos and films are we watching? What sort of literature are we reading? We need to constantly remind ourselves that what we use our eyes for can have an enormous impact on how we think. This is why looking at things like pornography can be so devastating to a Christian's walk.**
- 2. Secondly what we listen to can have a similar impact to what we look at. Some of the music and lyrics our younger people listen to are having a big impact on the way many are living their lives. Some of the dark themes and music are sending some of our youth into depression and even suicide. Some of our youth are being conned into sexual activity that is terribly downgrading the gift that God has given to us, which is to be fulfilled in the context of marriage.**

**PRAYER needed for:**

- Another request coming from a ministry called Hellenic Ministries for an online Greek version of the paper
- Our directors and their families around the world - Cobus & Christa Britz (South Africa), Andrew & Karen Trezona (USA) and Andrew & Mandy Holloway (UK) as they continue to promote and connect with churches during this Covid pandemic
- Upcoming trip for Carl to Broome/Port Hedland and Karratha 15-28 March
- Karen Trezona as she continues to develop a global website for the Challenge ministry

**3. Thirdly our tongues can be used for all sorts of things. One thing that can be so devastating in our relationships with each other is gossip. It can be enormously corrosive and destructive in the life of an individual and in the life of the church. Wrong information or information that is correctly given with the wrong motive can do all sorts of things in our minds.**

**4. Then lastly our hands and feet, which speak of what we do and where we go can be used for all sorts of things that impact our minds, our thoughts and our imaginations. In today's world domestic violence is but one example of how one's hands can be wrongly used, instead of being instruments of righteousness. Also the places we go can lead us in very wrong directions. Heading off to nightclubs or massage parlours can only result in trouble, which can leave us with all sorts of wrong images indelibly stamped on our minds plaguing us with countless temptations.**

**What is the solution? Put on the whole armour of God and in this case make sure we have on the Helmet of Salvation. We need to guard our minds because it can become the doorway to all sorts of problems in our Christian walk. Let's fill our minds with the Word of God; let us memorise it and meditate upon it and delight ourselves in the Lord.**

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