

## Scripture

Ephesians 6:17

## Summary

This sermon looks at the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit. The helmet of salvation is our understanding of the salvation we have in Christ, which is described in the scriptures as being past, present and future. We have been saved (the power of sin is broken), we are presently being saved and we one day will be completely saved. In 1 Thess 5 Paul refers to the helmet of the hope of our salvation, meaning that it is quite likely in this passage that he is talking about the hope of our future salvation. Therefore, the hope we have of the certainty of our victory keeps our minds guarded and focused despite attacks that come our way. Secondly, we look at the sword of

the Spirit, which is described as being the word of God. This word of God is described as being the sword, which was used for hand-to-hand combat as we wrestle against the lies and accusations of the devil. It's described as being the sword of the Spirit because it's the Spirit who is behind the writing of the scripture, and the one who writes God's word (law) on our hearts. The word of God shows us what God wants us to be, and the Spirit then applies it to our hearts. How does the sword of the Spirit, the word of God, strengthen us in battle? It does it in two ways: Defensively (how Jesus used the word against satan in the wilderness) and offensively (the preaching of the gospel empowered by the Spirit making God's enemies love Him).

## Main Points

1. The Helmet of Salvation
  - a. Hope in the final victory of Christ
  - b. How this hope protects us from the enemy's attacks
2. The Sword of the Spirit
  - a. Why God's word is a sword
  - b. Why it's spoken of as the sword of the Spirit
  - c. How the Spirit defends us and advances the gospel

## Other scriptures

Isaiah 59:17  
 Jeremiah 31:31  
 1 Thess 5:8  
 2 Cor 4:1-6

Heb 4:12-13

2 Tim 3:16

## Sermon in a sentence:

The hope of our future salvation is a helmet that guards our minds and keeps us focus on the battle in which we wield God's word to both defend us against the enemies attacks as well as advance the Kingdom.

## Questions

1. Hope has to do with confident longing. How great is your longing for Christ's return?
2. How does confident longing for Christ's return enable you to resist temptation now?
3. Why does Paul say that the word of God is the Sword of the Spirit?
4. How does the Word of God defend you against the evil one? Give examples
5. How does the Word of God advance the Kingdom of God?
6. What can you do to increase you ability to 'handle' or use the Word of God?

## Think On This

"Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life" Prov 13:12

## RHC Core Values

**Gospel-Centredness** – To have the gospel in the centre of our ministry, and for everything we do to find its root in the gospel.

**Experiential Faith** – To actively seek the modern day work of the Holy Spirit, expecting him to move in our midst in signs and wonders, and to lead us to the will of God.

**Theological Depth** – To pursue a deep and soul satisfying knowledge and understanding of God through the Bible.

**Community on Mission** – To recognise that we are not here for ourselves, but are on a mission to bring the gospel to the world.

**City Renewal** – To see the gospel change every aspect of the city we are living in by doing social justice, integrating our faith and work, and seeing the city renewed culturally, socially and spiritually for the glory of God.