



Sunday, July 15, 2018

Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to Ephesians 6:10-17

There is a sitcom where one of the characters asks a doctor, “Which is more serious: a head injury or a foot injury?” Obviously, you don’t have to go to medical school to know that a head injury is more serious. The head is a crucial body part. Every time your heart beats, anywhere between twenty and fifty percent of your blood-flow goes to your head. So, you can imagine in battle how important it would be to protect your head.

But, as Pastor Don noted, head injuries are not only physical. Breaking from the illustration a bit, “the schemes of the devil” (Eph. 6:11) are often lies that get embedded in our minds and cause us to question God and His goodness towards us. So, to think of this “helmet” as our assurance of salvation is vitally important in the spiritual battle in which we find ourselves engaged. We can think of this assurance in a couple of different ways. For those who think their sin is too bad for God to forgive and save them, we need only look to the cross and remember that Jesus’ sacrifice of Himself paid for all our sins. For those who are casual about their sin and see little fruit of repentance, we look to the Spirit’s work in us to see if we have been really born again, but in seeing the Spirit’s work, we can be confident of our salvation (1 John 4:13).

Context

As Pastor Don has noted several times, the description of the armor of God is basically an elaborate illustration of what it means to “put on Christ.” One of the fascinating things about the Bible is that, because we know Christ is fully God, everything the Old Testament says about God can be said about Christ as well. In this case, when Isaiah talks about the LORD putting on the helmet of salvation (Is. 59:17), we can know with certainty that he is talking about Christ.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

“Armor – Helmet of Salvation”

Read Ephesians 6:10-17

Ephesians 6.17

Helmet

3 senses of salvation in Scripture

- 1) Salvation from the penalty of sin (justification)
- 2) Salvation from the power of sin (sanctification)
- 3) Salvation from the presence of sin (glorification)

- Salvation enjoyed present possession

- Salvation expected future prospect

1 Thessalonians 5:8-9

“But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Discuss

- 1) When you think of “salvation,” what is the first thing that comes to mind?
- 2) How do you know if you have been saved from the penalty of sin?
- 3) How have you seen God overcome the power of sin in your life?
- 4) When you think about life in a world without the presence of sin, what do you think about?
- 5) Pastor Don told the story of Harry Ironside to illustrate how someone can be very religious and yet not be saved. How can that be? And how can we encourage one another to live out an authentic faith in Christ?