

Defense Against Defeat Part 3

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Ephesians 6:17.
- B. Every one of us faces the wiles of the devil daily.
- C. The armor is an intelligent program we are expected to follow.
- D. We cannot face the devil in our own strength.
- E. The armor of God—the defense of the Christian—is Christ in us and us in Christ. (John 14)
 - 1. The believer in Christ.
 - a. Christ is the ground of all truth—He is the explanation of reality alone.
 - b. God has met the requirements for our righteousness.
 - c. We have peace with God—Christ is the ground of our morale.
 - 2. Christ in the believer. We have the shield of faith, coming to practical conclusions concerning the truth of Jesus Christ.

II. The helmet of salvation.

- A. This is the protection of the mind.
 - 1. The breastplate protects the emotions.
 - 2. The feet shod protects the will.
- B. Men are desperately bewildered today.
- C. This is not the salvation in the past or a present experience—it is future.
 - 1. Salvation is a hope—something not entered into fully. (I Thessalonians 5)
 - 2. This helmet is a recognition that all human schemes are doomed to failure and that Christ is working out His plan for the future. (Romans 8:18-25)
 - 3. Christians are not to withdraw from the world, but be involved for different reasons than the worldly person is.
 - 4. The Christian is not disappointed when human programs and philosophies fail because it is part of the overall working out of God's plan.

D. The Christian ought to further social causes but not become part of the world—Jesus was not part of any social club, but he was known everywhere for the work that He did.

E. The battle is not ours, but the Lord's.

1. Man is never able to solve his problems.

2. We are shut up to the salvation of God.

3. In this strength, we can guard ourselves in the hard days to come.

Application questions:

1. How does the helmet of salvation relate to the other pieces of armor?

2. What aspect of salvation does this look for and how does this effectively give us hope?

3. To what area of your life does the helmet of salvation especially speak? Explain.
