

## “Put on the helmet of Salvation. Eph 6:17”

So what is Salvation?

**sal•va•tion** \sal-'vā-shən\ n

- 1 a : deliverance from the power and effects of sin
- b : the agent or means that effects salvation
- 2 : liberation from ignorance or illusion
- 3 a : preservation from destruction or failure
- b : deliverance from danger or difficulty

### ME

Introduce passage Ephesians 6:17 – Put on the helmet of salvation.

<sup>13</sup>Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. <sup>14</sup>Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup>and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup>**Take the helmet of salvation** and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Paul takes this idea of a helmet of salvation from where it has been used in the old testament in **Isaiah 59:17 where God puts on a Helmet of salvation** and therefore we will be using this passage to look at this topic this morning.

### WE

Use Isaiah Passage to describe the world we live in.

#### Isaiah 59

##### Sin, Confession and Redemption

<sup>1</sup> Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear.

<sup>2</sup> But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

<sup>3</sup> For your hands are stained with blood, your fingers with guilt. Your lips have spoken falsely, and your tongue mutters wicked things.

<sup>4</sup> No one calls for justice; no one pleads their case with integrity. They rely on empty arguments, they utter lies; they conceive trouble and give birth to evil.

<sup>5</sup> They hatch the eggs of vipers and spin a spider's web. Whoever eats their eggs will die, and when one is broken, an adder is hatched.

<sup>6</sup> Their cobwebs are useless for clothing; they cannot cover themselves with what they make. Their deeds are evil deeds, and acts of violence are in their hands.

<sup>7</sup> Their feet rush into sin; they are swift to shed innocent blood. They pursue evil schemes; acts of violence mark their ways.

<sup>8</sup> The way of peace they do not know; there is no justice in their paths. They have turned them into crooked roads; no one who walks along them will know peace.

<sup>9</sup> So justice is far from us, and righteousness does not reach us. We look for light, but all is darkness; for brightness, but we walk in deep shadows.

<sup>10</sup> Like the blind we grope along the wall, feeling our way like people without eyes. At midday we stumble as if it were twilight; among the strong, we are like the dead.

<sup>11</sup> We all growl like bears; we moan mournfully like doves. We look for justice, but find none; for deliverance, but it is far away.

<sup>12</sup> For our offenses are many in your sight, and our sins testify against us. Our offenses are ever with us, and we acknowledge our iniquities:

<sup>13</sup> rebellion and treachery against the LORD, turning our backs on our God, inciting revolt and oppression, uttering lies our hearts have conceived.

<sup>14</sup> So justice is driven back, and righteousness stands at a distance; truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter.

<sup>15</sup> Truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey. The LORD looked and was displeased that there was no justice.

<sup>16</sup> He saw that there was no one, he was appalled that there was no one to intervene; so his own arm achieved salvation for him, and his own righteousness sustained him.

<sup>17</sup> He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head; he put on the garments of vengeance and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak.

<sup>18</sup> According to what they have done, so will he repay wrath to his enemies and retribution to his foes; he will repay the islands their due.

<sup>19</sup> From the west, people will fear the name of the LORD, and from the rising of the sun, they will revere his glory. For he will come like a pent-up flood that the breath of the LORD drives along.

<sup>20</sup> "The Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins," declares the LORD.

<sup>21</sup> "As for me, this is my covenant with them," says the LORD. "My Spirit, who is on you, and my words that I have put in your mouth will not depart from your mouth, or from the mouths of your children, or from the mouths of their descendants from this time on and forever," says the LORD.

Here Isaiah the prophet **is describing the state of the world**. He is describing **the fallen state of mankind. The wickedness, the selfishness, the godlessness, the separation from the God who created them.**

Friends, **does this description remind you of anything?**

Does it remind you of **a world that kills babies at a rate of about 46million a year 93% due to social reasons? A world that's greed has taken many to their knees? A world where fear reigns as different illnesses take hold like swine flu. A world where about 25,000 children die each day due to poverty, A world where we see murders happening almost every day** as we turn on the news. This **is the world we live in**, not much has changed since Isaiah wrote, thousands of years ago.

**So how does this make us feel?**

More importantly **how does this make God feel?**

**GOD**

**We can see from this passage how God feels about this and what he does.**

The LORD looked and was displeased that there was no justice. <sup>16</sup> He saw that there was no one, he was appalled that there was no one to intervene;

Another translation says:

The LORD saw it, and it displeased him that there was no justice.<sup>16</sup> He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no one to intercede;

God looks down and is **displeased that there is no justice**, but even worse **there was no one to intervene for him, no one interceding.**

So **what did he do?** He intervened. He **stretched out his own arm.**

**He doesn't just let it go. God never lets it go, we see this from the account of the Ark,** He doesn't think there is nothing he can do.

God puts on his armour? He puts on the **breastplate of righteousness, the helmet of salvation, the garments of vengeance and the cloak of zeal.**

Militant / Military intervention.

The armour is a **sign of God's military intent.** Mankind is worth fighting for.

We know the story don't we? **He sent righteousness, salvation, vengeance and zeal in his Son Jesus.**

Jesus brought all these things when he came to earth, when he came to destroy the work of the evil one, when he died on the cross for **the sins you have committed and the sins you will commit. God is a God of Justice!** He hates sin and deals with it accordingly. Only by the grace and love of God can we come to know him.

God put on the helmet of salvation **not as a defence, it is an object of attack; of offence.**

**The Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Good news that he saved us, the fact that we need saving is OFFENSIVE!!**

So we may read the passage in Ephesians that we need to put on the helmet of salvation to protect us from the world around us, but this is not the context that Paul pick up from Isaiah. **Not really about personal protection.**

We might think because we are Christians **the helmet of salvation is that which protects our heads or our minds**. But we looked recently how we deal with our minds. The bible doesn't say protect your minds when you believe lies or think bad thoughts, it says –

**Take every thought captive and make it obedient to Christ.**

Putting on a helmet to protect us from this seems a bit contradictory.

As I said I think this is the picture in Isaiah that Paul is quoting here, the important thing here is how does God use the helmet of salvation. **It is preparation for attack, to deal with the sin and evil in the world.**

**YOU**

**So how do we respond to this?**

Recognising the condition around us.

Do we react as God does, **are we bowvered?**

Christians are **often judgemental and critical and do nothing about it**, rather than having **a sense of compassion, indignation**...this is what God feels about it?

**God was astonished that there was no man or intercessor**

Pauls challenge is will **we be the militant soldiers who intervene as part of the army of God**, under Jesus command.

Jesus has already begun this, **are we with him, or do we just let him get on with it**, even though he calls us to join him.

**Jesus is the only hope of salvation**, but we the church are God's plan to take the good news of Jesus to the sick world around us. **We don't do it because we think we should**, but we do it because we **are amazed that Jesus would do it for us, that he would save us, those completely unworthy.**

But how do we get Jesus' compassion for the lost?

**1.** It starts with our own salvation, and Gods grace to us. **If you are not amazed by this, why not?** Meetings where the gospel is proclaimed are my favourite meetings, **I don't know about you but I often feel like responding again and again.** We should never tire of hearing the good news of Jesus. **Do you stay away if a guest meeting is advertised?** Have you ever though **I've heard this all before, I don't like the hype, especially with healing stuff; I get embarrassed when there is an appeal.** Etc

**2.** We spend time **praying for those who are lost.** Now this is a **discipline, and not something that is easy, or even that we feel like doing?** But when we press through and God gives us his heart, **then we realise how wonderful and important it is.**

**3. We take action,** we **swallow our pride** and talk to our friends about Jesus and how he has changed our lives, those we know that are as Isaiah describes, **those who are destined for hell.** We invite them to a **guest meeting /alpha /CX / Quiz nights/Fundays,** not knowing how they will react, **but trusting God** that he wants no one to perish.

**When someone says yes and their life is changed by God, there is nothing like it!! It builds your heart for the lost.**

**WE**

**Is there a man, is there an intercessor?**

**Is this a church that will respond to this call, to forcefully take the kingdom of god like an army to those who are lost?**

Jesus will come as the redeemer to all who repent of their sins.....**This is his promise.**

**This is the confidence we can have**

**We are not to be doubtful about the power of the gospel, it is the hope of salvation.**

So Friends, do we take up the helmet of salvation, as an act of intent that we are here to do Gods will and proclaim Jesus salvation to those around us, or do we put it on thinking it is just for Christians and that it will save us from attack and give us an excuse not to do anything?

Isaiah finishes with an amazing promise from God for those who will stand up and fight for him.

"As for me, this is my covenant with them," says the LORD. "My Spirit, who is on you, and my words that I have put in your mouth will not depart from your mouth, or from the mouths of your children, or from the mouths of their descendants from this time on and forever," says the LORD.