

## That Which Covers

Ephesians 6:17a Sunday AM, April 21, 2024

**Prelude – Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-17** (NASB95) Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. 14 Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, 15 and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; 16 in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. While the devil and those under him work to defeat those who would be strong in the Lord, God has made provision of armor stronger than every other person, spiritual power, or thought that wars against the Lord and His purposes. Do you look to God for purpose or do you look for God to help you accomplish your purpose? What wars against you being in fellowship with God living to represent Him and accomplishing His will? To be strong in the Lord in the strength of His might, you must look to God for the belt of truth—stability against all other realities—theirs or yours. Look to God for the breastplate of righteousness—a right standing producing right actions that please God. Look to God for footwear—the gospel of peace—quieting and protecting your soul but also the message your feet carry to those around you. Move forward intentionally, but take up the shield of faith “with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.” Were you aware of the devil’s arrows this week? What has God give you to believe which would stand against those arrows? All this seems much to remember but is all part of identifying with Christ. Settle in your soul that you are not your own. You belong to the Lord. Then look to the One you follow and worship His ability to accomplish in and through you what He has promised. All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!

**\*Hymn #96: All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name**

Today, add to your armor the helmet of salvation. Just what makes up this helmet? Do you daily rehearse the treasure of this priceless gift? Worship God for His power and love as you look at what He has given those who look to Him for salvation.

**\*Hymn (Powerpoint): I Will Glory in My Redeemer**

**\*Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn** **Choir: Indescribable**

**Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-28** (NASB95) Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. 2 For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. 3 While they are saying, “Peace and safety!” then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape. 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; 5 for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; 6 so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. 7 For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night. 8 But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. 9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing. 12 But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, 13 and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another. 14 We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. 15 See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people. 16 Rejoice always; 17 pray without ceasing; 18 in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. 19 Do not quench the Spirit; 20 do not despise prophetic utterances. 21 But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; 22 abstain from every form of evil. 23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass. 25 Brethren, pray for us. 26 Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss. 27 I adjure you by the Lord to have this letter read to all the brethren. 28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**Offering: \*Doxology:**

Salvation speaks of both a perilous condition as well as a source of deliverance. Christians do not merely look at their problems, they look to the One who delivers. God delivers us from living for now and preparing for our future down here. We are NOT of the night, we are not asleep, but alert and sober. To be “in the Lord” now is to live WITH Him—by faith calling to Him for grace to help in time of need, AND by looking for His return. Do you live this way? It will change your priorities and your relationships so that you need people less for security and purpose, but care for them more than ever because you hope in the Lord. He is your strength, your life, your protection. Sing the bedrock of the Christian.

**\*Hymn #406: My Hope Is in the Lord**

Salvation is not just about Jesus on the cross paying the penalty for our sins. That act of atonement combined with the righteous acts of Christ provide the basis for God’s salvation, but LIVING your salvation is a way of life. It leads toward encouraging the other believers as you submit to the body and those who lead it. It leads toward rejoicing, a life of prayer, and turning from every form of sin that would separate us from God. It encompasses every part of your life and leads to looking for our Savior’s return and the God of peace Himself sanctifying us entirely, our spirit, soul, and body preserved complete and without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. As Pastor prepares to preach about this treasured helmet, sing Salvation’s Song.

**\*Hymn (Powerpoint): Salvation’s Song**

**Message: That Which Covers Eph. 6:17a**

**\*Hymn #189: Calvary Covers It All**

**\*Prayer**