

The Helmet of Salvation – Our Identity in Christ

By Jani Lynn Warner

*“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.”*

(1 Thessalonians 2:8)

The helmet was worn to protect the head against the broadsword, and it bore a crest (according to Noah Webster’s 1828 *Dictionary of the English Language*). A crest was a part of heraldry identification that answered the questions: Whose man are you? Whose side are you on? What do you stand for? What do you stand against?

Isaiah described Jesus as wearing *“righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on His head, and He put on garments of vengeance for clothing, And wrapped Himself in Zeal as a mantle”* (Isaiah 59:17). As Christians, the helmet and crest we wear is Jesus Christ, who is our Head, our Salvation, and our Hope. Paul warns us that *“the Day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night”* (1 Thessalonians 5:2), but the Christian is to be one of the *“Sons of Light and Sons of Day”* (1 Thessalonians 5:5a). He instructs us that *“it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light”* (Romans 13:11b-12).

When we are asleep, we are forgetting God and sleeping in the flesh. We are in sin and living with the wrong aim, missing the mark. We want to think our own thoughts and have our own versions of “reality.” Paul states that a trumpet of God will sound, and *“the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words”* (1 Thessalonians 4:16b-17). We are to remember to wake up to our true identity, to repentance and salvation in Christ Jesus, to warfare, and to fellowship with the Lord, both now and eternally.

Alas! We have no trumpet calls to wake us up (like the people of Israel in the Old Testament); however, we have an even better gift to help us awaken to God. Jesus said, *“When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, and you will testify also...”* (John 15:26-27a).

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit will sound the trumpet in our hearts and awaken us to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Like a muster call to spiritual arms, we should put on the helmet and emblem of our salvation, Jesus Christ, our Head, arming ourselves with the full armor of God (Ephesians 6:13-17) and preparing for battle. The Holy Spirit gives us power to return to God every moment we stray, in repentance and remembrance of Jesus, who is our Identity, our Head, and our Salvation.

“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

(Romans 13:15)