

TRUTH & RIGHT

the bulletin of the Wellsburg church of Christ

WELLSBURG
CHURCH OF CHRIST



www.wellsburgchurchofchrist.com

Volume 11 Issue 41

October 9, 2016

PUT ON THE HELMET OF SALVATION

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might...And take the helmet of salvation...” (Eph. 6:10,17).

Just as a helmet in battle would be necessary for the soldier, Paul admonishes us to keep our heads protected with the helmet of salvation. A passage in 1 Thessalonians further details the nature of this helmet, shedding additional light on how it serves as a vital piece of our protective armor in our battles with Satan during temptation.

“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. For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will

live together with Him.

Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing,” (1 Thess. 5:8-11).

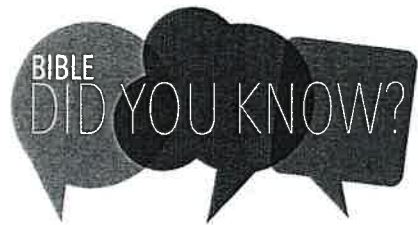
While we currently enjoy the blessings of the deliverance from the consequence of sin through Christ, there is the promise of a future deliverance which will be given to all those who remain faithful and resist the temptations of the devil. “And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach – if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have

heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister,” (Col. 1:21-23). There is a hope for faithful Christians who, while temporarily in the flesh are subject to various degrees of pain, suffering, sorrow, anguish, persecutions and hardships, that if we faithfully obey and continue to follow our Lord, there will be a future final glorious deliverance from the pains experienced in this life. “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for

our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it,” (Rom. 8:18-25). It is vital that we keep our heads protected with the constant remembrance of our hope for future glory where all pain, sadness and suffering will be finally and completely removed. This helmet of the hope of our future salvation and glory is what protects us from the instant gratification element of temptation. Our hope of salvation is the reminder that a fuller and more complete and longer lasting glorious fulfillment and joy will be given to us in heaven if we are willing to resist the temptation to indulge our flesh in its present condition with sinful pleasures. Satan loves to appeal to our impatient nature and offer doses of pleasure which may be experienced instantly. While it may certainly be tempting to have the potential to experience a measure of momentary pleasure without having to wait for it, our helmet of salvation reminds us

that there is the promise of eternal joys far superior and longer lasting which will be rewarded to those who forego the temptation to experience sinful momentary pleasure in the flesh. When I lived in Marietta there were signs posted all over town and the surrounding area of offers to purchase landowners' mineral rights for immediate cash. While it is certainly tempting to have immediate cash in hand, landowners also forfeit their rights to receive future royalty checks when drilling begins which would be a much greater profit and longer lasting. Satan is making the same offer to us when he tempts us. He offers to give you immediate gratification right now in exchange for your inheritance which promises much greater rewards which are longer lasting. The scriptures warn us to keep our helmet firmly secured on our heads so we don't make the same mistake as Esau. "See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled; that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal.

For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears," (Heb. 12:15-17). If ever there was a worthy and fitting description of the promise, "I promise it will be worth the wait!" it has to be Heaven! Let us keep our helmets fit tightly on, constantly reminding us of the hope of this glorious salvation and deliverance from the pains of this life, and be loyal and faithful to pursue holiness and purity abstaining from the lusts of the flesh. — Daniel Ruegg



Angels were present when God created the world. "Then the LORD answered Job out of the storm. He said, '...Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation?...while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?" (Job 38:1-7)

People, Places, and Things of the **BIBLE**



EVEN CAESAR CONFIRMED THE RESURRECTION

After Christ's Resurrection, Claudius Caesar issued a decree for people to stop stealing bodies from Judah's sepulchers. Without realizing it, he was confirming Christ's Resurrection!

The Nazareth Inscription is a powerful piece of extrabiblical evidence that Christ's Resurrection was already being proclaimed shortly after He was raised. It is a marble tablet, 24 inches (61 cm) by 15 inches (38 cm), written in the Greek language. Since the discovery was published in 1930, no scholar has produced evidence to disprove its authenticity. It's an abridged decree by Emperor Claudius (AD 41–54), pronouncing the death penalty in Israel for anyone caught robbing bodies from tombs. (Normally, grave robbers stole valuables, not bodies!) It refers specifically to "sepulcher sealing tombs," a special type used in Israel.

This "Decree of Caesar" is known as an imperial rescript, having the force of law. Rescripts frequently dealt with unusual legal, religious, or political issues arising in a specific region. The text fits both the style and structure of other rescripts of Claudius.

Matthew records one of the first responses to reports of Jesus' Resurrection. The Jewish authorities invented a lie that the disciples had stolen the body (Matthew 28:13). Their goal was to spread an alternative story explaining why the body was missing and the tomb was empty. The Nazareth Inscription is very likely the Roman response to that very same problem. In his dialogue with a nonbelieving Jew, Justin Martyr (AD 100–165) also refers to these early attempts to explain away the empty tomb of Jesus: "Yet you not only have not repented, after you learned that He rose from the dead, but, as I said before you have sent chosen and ordained men throughout all the world to proclaim that a godless and lawless heresy had sprung from one Jesus, a Galilean deceiver, whom we crucified, but his disciples stole him by the dead and ascended to heaven."

The Nazareth Inscription forces skeptics to deal more deeply with the two major competing views of events: believing in the Resurrection of Christ or believing that His disciples stole His body from the tomb to perpetrate a great religious fraud. The account of Christ's Resurrection was first circulated by the Apostles themselves, according to Scripture, and it was not a later invention by Christians of the post-apostolic period. The inscription is excellent evidence confirming this truth, and it brings to mind Paul's statement, "If Christ is not risen...your faith is also empty" (1 Corinthians 15:14).

