

TRUTH & RIGHT

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KEEP YOUR HELMET ON

“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).*

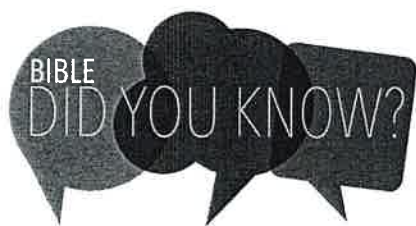
There is a hope for faithful Christians who, while temporarily in the flesh are subject to various degrees of pain, suffering, sorrow, anguish, persecutions and hardships, that if we faithfully obey and continue to follow our Lord, there will be a future final glorious deliverance from the pains experienced 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. *"Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy,'"* (1 Pet. 1:13-16).
 – Daniel Ruegg



"From my distress I called upon the LORD; the LORD answered me and set me in a large place. The LORD is for me; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"
Psalms 118:5-6

BIBLE TRIVIA

C H A L L E N G E

DIRECTIONS: After searching through your Bible, circle which answer is correct.

1. A fool rejects his father's _____, but he who regards reproof is sensible.

- a) Love
- b) Discipline
- c) Watch
- d) Money

2. The _____ of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but the prayer of the upright is His delight.

- a) Singing
- b) Work
- c) Sacrifice
- d) Laughter

3. Without _____, plans are frustrated, but with many counselors they succeed.

- a) Muscle
- b) Intuition
- c) Commitment
- d) Consultation

4. The LORD will tear down the house of the proud, but He will establish the boundary of the _____.

- a) Widow
- b) Rich
- c) Prudent
- d) Cautious

5. He who neglects discipline despises himself, But He who listens to reproof acquires _____.

- a) Bruises
- b) Understanding
- c) Pain
- d) Honor

6. All the ways of a man are clean in his own sight, but the LORD weighs the _____.

- a) Outcome
- b) Effort
- c) Balance
- d) Motives

7. When a man's ways are pleasing to the LORD, He makes even his _____ to be at peace with him.

- a) Enemies
- b) Friends
- c) Family
- d) Livestock

8. A gray head is a crown of glory; it is found in the way of _____.

- a) Years
- b) Learning
- c) Diligence
- d) Righteousness

9. The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, but the LORD tests _____.

- a) Faithfulness
- b) Hearts
- c) Sinners
- d) Strength

10. He also who is slack in his work is brother to him who _____.

- a) Procrastinates
- b) Quits
- c) Sleeps
- d) Destroys

- 7) A, Prov. 16:7
 8) D, Prov. 16:31
 9) B, Prov. 17:3
 10) D, Prov. 18:9
 1) B, Reference: Prov. 15:5
 2) C, Reference: Prov. 15:8
 3) D, Reference: Prov. 15:22
 4) A, Reference: Prov. 15:25
 5) B, Reference: Prov. 15:32
 6) D, Reference: Prov. 16:2