

“Take your Stand”
Ephesians 6:10-17
“Head Strong”

Two types - leather with metal or forged metal

- **Primarily protected** the head from attack of the sword

Head – Helmet protects the Head, mind, brain

- important to effectively use the rest of the armour - if you can't think, you die
- true of followers of Jesus too
 - Mark 4 - Parable of the sown seeds
path (hear but Satan), rocks (no root in persecution, doubt), thorns (worries, cares choke) = so much rests on how we think!
 - Romans 12:1-2 - "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ²Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."
= there is the spiritual battle for our minds

“Helmet Of Salvation”

= element of protection but still need to "put it on"
➤ salvation for now and hope for the future

Other passages help clarify this connection to Hope

- **1 Cor. 2:9** – “What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived, the things God has prepared for those who love him”

- **hope comes from the assurance of our salvation – delivered from doubt**
- **1 John 5:13** – I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.
- **you know...confidence, no doubt**

1 Thessalonians 5:8 – “but let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for a helmet, the hope of salvation”

- **context they were afraid they had missed the 2nd coming, became miserable, complainers**
- **protection for the mind is hope**
- **hope = “quiet steady expectation of good based on the promises of God’s Word”,**
- **Hope = “continuing optimism’, “always chooses to see the best, not giving way to doubt”**
 - **Everything in our lives is working towards good for us**
 - **Not empty optimism but real reason for optimism because God is in control**

Hope

Life changing power of Hope

the story of self-made millionaire Eugene Land, who greatly changed the lives of a sixth-grade class in East Harlem. Mr. Land had been asked to speak to a class of 59 sixth-graders. What could he say to inspire these students, most of whom would drop out of school? He wondered how he could get these predominantly black and Puerto Rican children even to look at him. Scrapping his notes, he decided to speak to them from his heart. "Stay in school," he admonished, "and I'll help pay the college tuition for every one of you." At that moment the lives of these students changed. For the first time they had hope. Said one student, "I had something to look forward to, something waiting for me. It was a golden feeling." Nearly 90 percent of that class went on to graduate from high school.

= A little Hope can change lives!

Only God offers this kind of Life changing hope

- Romans 8:24 – we are saved by Hope (screen)
- Colossians 1:27 – If Christ is in us, we have hope (screen)
- VBS - 9 Bibles

Hebrews 6:17-20 (read) – 2 realities of God we need to remember

1. vs. 18– Reality of His Nature - God is true

- our fears are based on falsehood

Ex's

Sick but no healing, "God cannot do"

Lonely, "God is not present"

Angry (vbs), "God doesn't care"

Sinful habits, "God couldn't forgive"

Work, "God, I know what's best"...

- these rob us of Hope, cause doubt
- VBS - See the Visible, Discover the Invisible - If God can do...

Illustration - Institute for Creation Research

The most important factor affecting the surface temperature of the earth is obviously the distance from the sun. If the earth were moved a few million miles closer to the sun, (currently 93 million miles away) the surface of the earth would become warmer causing our glaciers to melt. With a decrease in the area of ice the total reflectivity of our planet's surface would thereby **decrease** and more of the sun's heat would be absorbed. The melting of glaciers would produce a rise of sea level, and, apart from flooding most of our modern cities, would create a larger total ocean surface area. Since seawater absorbs larger amounts of solar radiation than equal area land masses, heating of the earth would again be promoted. Furthermore, after increasing the temperature of the oceans, much of the ocean's dissolved carbon dioxide would be added to the atmosphere along with large amounts

of water due to increased evaporation. The increased carbon dioxide and water vapor level of the atmosphere would again bring about a significant temperature rise. All things considered, a minor **decrease** in the sun's distance would have a drastic heating effect on the earth's surface.

What would happen if the earth were a few million miles farther from the sun? The reverse of the previous situation applies. We would have more of our planet covered by ice, with associated **increased** reflectivity of the sun's heat. The ocean would cover less of the earth's surface and the important process of absorption of heat by seawater would be **decreased**. Since the ocean would be colder, evaporation would be less with less heat-trapping water vapor in the atmosphere. Much of the carbon dioxide from the atmosphere would become dissolved in the colder ocean. Calculations show that a decrease of carbon dioxide in the air to just one-half of its present level would lower the average temperature of the earth's surface by about 7.0 degrees Fahrenheit! Thus, increasing the sun's distance would have a profound cooling effect on our planet.

- **God is working in all of life around us to teach, to strengthen, to encourage us**
- **He is true - God can do it, He can do all things!**

2. vs.19 – Reality of His Promises

- **fastens us to God, firm and secure, in a world that is temporary, unreliable, changing...**

"Samson, David, and many other celebrated men full of the Holy Spirit fell into grievous sins. Job and Jeremiah cursed the day of their birth; Elijah and Jonah were weary of life and desired death. Such examples are written for our consolation: for it is a great comfort to us to hear that great saints, who have the Spirit of God, also struggle. Those who say that saints do not sin would deprive us of this comfort. No one has ever fallen so grievously that he may not rise again. Conversely, no one stands so firmly that he may not fall. If Peter (and Paul and Barnabas) fell, I too may fall. If they rose again, I too may rise again." Martin Luther.

= this is the hope that comes from a relationship with God, who keeps His promises to us

- His promises are true, we are secure in them and they are our "anchor"
- For those who choose to trust God Unconditionally accepted, forgiven (1 John 1:9), adopted, inheritors of heaven and eternal life with God

Illustration - "p" for "promise of God" So many to find!
= hope

later in Hebrews 10:23 - "hold unswervingly to the hope we profess"

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Ephesians 6:10-17
“Head Strong”**

Helmet - Primarily protected the _____ from the attack of the _____

Head

Mark 4, Romans 12:1-2

= so much rests on how we _____

= there is the spiritual battle for our _____

“Helmet Of Salvation”

- salvation for _____ and hope for the _____
 - 1 Cor. 2:9, 1 John 5:13, 1 Thessalonians 5:8

Hope

A little Hope can change lives!

God _____ this kind of life changing hope

- Romans 8:24, Colossians 1:27

Hebrews 6:17-20 - Two realities of God

1. vs. 18 - Reality of His _____ - God is true
 - our fears are based on falsehood, but God is true. God can do it, He can do all _____!

2. vs.19 - Reality of His _____
 - His promises are true, we are secure in them, and they are our " _____ "