

Receiving something does not mean that the person receiving it will experience the benefits of it. Benefits can only be had from using it properly, regularly and consistently. This is important to remember as Paul introduces us to the next piece of spiritual armor. In Ephesians 6:17 he says “Take the helmet of salvation...”.

Why do you think he chose to pair **salvation** with this particular piece of armor?

In what way do you think our salvation helps protect our mind? Many may think our salvation experience is something that only affects a person's eternal destiny—heaven or hell. It does in fact affect the outcome of eternity. It gives us great hope! In wearing the helmet of salvation, it reminds us to live every day in light of eternity and the promised future that we have. This should change the way we live in the present.

Indeed, 1 Thessalonians 5:8 calls the helmet “the hope of salvation.” What are some ways that our salvation in Christ gives us hope and confidence even while living through the trials and difficulties of earth? How does it impact our choices, feelings, and actions?

Receiving salvation is not the same as applying salvation. Receiving salvation redeems us. Applying salvation restores, protects, and shields us daily from the attacks of the enemy.

Let's look at some passages that help us understand salvation more fully.

Romans 5:9-10 HCSB. “Much more then, since we have now been declared righteous by his blood, we will be saved through Him from wrath. For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, then how much more, having been reconciled, will we be, saved by His life!”

James 1:21 “Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility, receive the word implanted which is able to save your souls.”

Christ's death **justifies** us by declaring us “righteous by his blood”. (Rom. 5:9) Justification is a legal term meaning **acquittal**. It means we're relieved from having to pay the debt we owe for our sin. We're forgiven with no debt left to pay.

Our salvation does not stop at the cross. What His death accomplished was amazing for all of us. Imagine how much more was accomplished through “His life” (Rom. 5:10) James 1:21 says, our “souls” are saved daily and progressively through the Spirit and the Word of God. This is sanctification and it is how we are able to experience the abundant life that Christ came to give all who believe in His name. How does this happen?

Sanctification in our daily lives is:

- the Spirit’s influence over you, over time
- conforming and transforming your soul.
- a process which continually delivers us from the wrath of God on earth.
- fortifying you against the enemy’s attack
- renewing your minds and molding you into the image of Christ

Look back at the passages Rom. 5:9-10 and James 1:21. That part of the passages that relate to justification have been underlined, those parts relating to sanctification are circled. Salvation is not just a past tense event (justification) or your future (glorification). But salvation in terms of daily living (sanctification).

Using the definition of salvation from the Lexham Theological Wordbook as we did earlier, salvation is the *rescue* from a state of danger and the “*restoration to wholeness and prosperity*.” This reference also explains that in the Bible, when the word *saved* is used, even in referring to one nation being saved from foreign enemies, it doesn’t just involve them escaping death but also entering into a state of health, wholeness, victory, and safety. Our God’s salvation is holistic and involves the well-being of the whole person—not just rescuing them but even reversing negative circumstances.

- 1) Give an example of salvation’s *rescuing* power in your life:
- 2) Give an example of salvation’s *restoring* power in your life:

God has graciously given us so much more in salvation for our daily lives. Our salvation becomes a defensive, protective device that covers and shields us.

We have received a huge boundless and **lavish** inheritance – we did not earn and do not deserve. Paul wants to make sure we never forget it. Because if we do we might live with our meager earthly resources instead of cashing in on the wealth of our Father. Paul wants to make sure we never forget. Because if we do we'll probably live a lifestyle well *below our actual means*. A lifestyle that is within our *earthly resources* instead of cashing in on the wealth of our Father. Let's take a look at our "Inheritance and Identity in Christ".

Put a circle around three of these that most speak to you at this time in your life as we read through them. Living in the light of this salvation inheritance makes you :

- able to stop living below your spiritual station in life,
- also protects your mind against the enemy's attempts to cripple your thinking, to convince you that you are worth less than you really are.
- It will change your mind-set, lifestyle, and choices you make.
- You will now base all of that on your wealthy spiritual income status.
- This way of looking at things will begin changing the outcome of the battles you face against the enemy.

Let's turn to Romans 8:14-17. Since your benefactor is God Himself and we are "heirs of God" what do you think the quality of this inheritance you've received might be? How about the quantity of this inheritance?

The Roman soldier's helmet was designed to cover his head, neck and shoulders. It left only the eyes, nose and mouth exposed. Total coverage for protection of the brain, which controls the mind, body and all actions. Our helmet of salvation does much the same. Strapped on it protects our minds. Choosing not to wear it means leaving our mind exposed, unprotected, like people who don't even own a helmet. But, you dear believer, don't need to live this way because you have the true inheritance which will allow you to live a spiritual life of abundance and grace. It is a helmet of protection for your head, for your mind. Put it on and rise in your standard of living right away.

Memory Verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:8 "But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet."

IS THERE AN OFFENSE TO FORGIVE? Yes, ours. We were enemies of God living in sin, through the blood of Christ we were redeemed (forgiven) and our salvation now rescues and restores us daily and for all eternity.

What did God show us today?

- 1) We receive the benefits of the helmet of salvation only when we use it properly, regularly and consistently.
- 2) Receiving salvation redeems (saves) us from the penalty of our sin and promises us eternal life in Christ.
- 3) Our soul's (mind, will, emotions, conscience and heart) are molded daily through the Spirit and God's Word.

Give an example of salvation's restoring power in your life.

Word Study:

- 1) acquittal: to settle or discharge a debt or obligation; can be a verdict of not guilty. We received an acquittal from God for our sin.
- 2) justifies: a legal term meaning acquitted; relieved from having to pay the sin debt we owe. Christ's death justifies us by declaring us "righteous by His blood"
- 3) reconciled: to bring into agreement or harmony. We are reconciled to God.
- 4) redeems: to fulfill, make up for, make amends for, pays off our debt of sin. Receiving salvation in Christ redeems us, by paying our debt of sin.
- 5) righteous: to be morally right by the blood of Christ. We have been declared righteous by the blood of Christ.
- 6) salvation: the rescue from a place of danger and being restored to wholeness and prosperity. Receiving salvation is not the same as applying salvation.

MY INHERITANCE AND IDENTITY IN CHRIST

The benefits and blessings bestowed upon us as redeemed children of God are more numerous than we can count. But the following list, taken directly from Scripture, is surely an impressive sampling.

I share it with you, hoping it will give you great confidence and encouragement in Christ.

- I am a child of God (John 1:12).
- I have peace with God (Rom. 5:1).
- The Holy Spirit lives in me (1 Cor. 3:16).
- I have access to God's wisdom (Jas. 1:5).
- I am helped by God (Heb. 4:16).
- I am reconciled to God (Rom. 5:11).
- I am not condemned by God (Rom. 8:1).
- I am justified (Rom. 5:1).
- I have Christ's righteousness (Rom. 5:19; 2 Cor. 5:21).
- I am Christ's ambassador (2 Cor. 5:20).
- I am completely forgiven (Col. 1:14).
- I am tenderly loved by God (Jer. 31:3).
- I am the sweet fragrance of Christ to God (2 Cor. 2:15).
- I am a temple in which God dwells (1 Cor. 3:16).
- I am blameless and beyond reproach (Col. 1:22).

- I am the salt of the earth (Matt. 5:13).
- I am the light of the world (Matt. 5:14).
- I am a branch on Christ's vine (John 15:1,5).
- I am Christ's friend (John 15:5).
- I am chosen by Christ to bear fruit (John 15:6).
- I am a joint heir with Christ, sharing his inheritance with him (Rom. 8:17).
- I am united to the Lord, one spirit with him (1 Cor. 6:17).
- I am a member of Christ's body (1 Cor. 12:27).
- I am a saint (Eph. 1:1).
- I am hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3).
- I am chosen by God, holy and dearly loved (Col. 3:12).
- I am a child of the light (1 Thess. 5:5).
- I am holy, and I share in God's heavenly calling (Heb. 3:1).
- I am sanctified (Heb. 2:11).
- I am one of God's living stones, being built up in Christ as a spiritual house (1 Pet. 2:5).
- I am a member of a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession and created to sing his praises (1 Pet. 2:9-10).
- I am firmly rooted and built up in Christ (Col. 2:7).

- I am born of God, and the evil one cannot touch me (1 John 5:18).
- I have the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16).
- I may approach God with boldness, freedom, and confidence (Eph. 3:12).
- I have been rescued from Satan's domain and transferred into the kingdom of Christ (Col. 1:13).
- I have been made complete in Christ (Col. 2:10).
- I have been given a spirit of power, love, and self-discipline (2 Tim. 1:7).
- I have been given great and precious promises by God (2 Pet. 1:4).
- My needs are met by God (Phil. 4:19).
- I am a prince (princess) in God's kingdom (John 1:12; 1 Tim. 6:15).
- I have been bought with a price, and I belong to God (1 Cor. 6:19,20).
- I have been adopted as God's child (Eph. 1:5).
- I have direct access to God through the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:18).
- I am assured that all things are working together for good (Rom. 8:28).
- I am free from any condemning charges against me (Rom. 8:31).
- I cannot be separated from the love of God (Rom. 8:35).
- I have been established, anointed, and sealed by God (2 Cor. 1:21,22).
- I am confident that the good work that God has begun in me will be perfected (Phil. 1:6).
- I am a citizen of heaven (Phil. 3:20).
- I am a personal witness of Christ's (Acts 1:8).
- I am God's coworker (2 Cor. 6:1; 1 Cor. 3:9).
- I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realm (Eph. 2:6).
- I am God's workmanship (Eph. 2:10).
- I can do all things through Christ, who gives me the strength I need (Phil. 4:13).