TOPIC: BATTLE FOR THE MIND

Know that the helmet of salvation gives protection from the mind-controlling efforts of the enemy – but we have to wear it always, and use the sword of the Spirit if we want to win the "battle for the mind".

KEY POINTS

- In 2009, the advertising industry in North America spent more than 150 billion dollars attempting to win a very big battle. The top 25 movies contributed to another $50 billion in striving to win this battle.
- The year before that, in the United States alone, the media revenue was more than $272 billion — all toward this same battle.
- To put that in perspective, that would be enough to give 800 people about $340 million to spend in any way they liked. That's a lot of money spent in trying to win this battle! It must be a really important battle.
- What battle is it? It's the battle for the mind. For your mind, and mine.
- For the past few years, and continuing today, massive studies are being conducted, (e.g. electrodes to people's heads while they are put through MRI machines). This is all in the effort to find out what actually goes on in someone's brain when they see a particular product, image, word, or movie clip.
- A lot of smart people are trying their best to find out what influences our feelings, our thoughts and our decisions. They are putting in big money, lots of time and the very latest technology to make sure they win **the battle for your mind**.
- Are they the only ones in this fight, or are you and I ready to engage in the battle for our minds?
- Ephesians 6:17 points out an item in the Christian's armour that protects the head: the helmet of salvation.
- The helmet holds your head together. A helmet is designed to stop things from getting into your head and to keep what is in there, in there.
- And even more special: this helmet is the helmet of salvation. It's a hard hat that saves your life when something that could split your brain open comes flying at you.
- When you put on the helmet of salvation, something happens to your thinking. First of all, you know that you are safe. Nothing can penetrate the material this helmet is made of. That material is called "salvation".
- It is the unshakeable fact that you are saved, that Jesus' name is on your life, that you have been converted from being a sinner bound for hell to a sinner saved by grace.
- Salvation says, "God did this and no man can undo it."
- By keeping your head inside that helmet of salvation, you insist that no other thought can intrude. You persist on thinking the thoughts that belong inside salvation.
- Reject the thoughts that are coming from outside salvation, outside your experience with God, outside His word.
- The Word of God defines what should be in our head, as long as our head is in the helmet. What should be in our head must come directly from the Word:
  - "No weapon that is formed against me shall prosper" (Isaiah 54:17).
  - "Greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world" (1 John 4:4).
  - I am being "transformed by the renewing of my mind" (Romans 12:2).
  - I am learning to have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16).
  - I know "I can do all things through Christ, [and this] strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).
  - When I call on the name of Jesus, all the power there is in heaven and on earth stands ready to help me (Matthew 28:18).
  - When I put the helmet on I know that this light affliction will be just for a moment. And it's working out for me "a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" (2 Corinthians 4:17).
- Banging on the helmet are all kinds of thoughts and feelings that don't come from the presence of God. They come from the world, the flesh and the devil.
- However, written on the sword of the Spirit is what you need to keep your mind saved: "This world is passing away, and all the lusts thereof, but he that does the will of God will abide forever" (1 John 2:17).
- It is written on the sword of the Spirit what you need to do to keep your mind saved.
- The Word tells you what you need to keep in your mind, if you want to keep your head in the helmet:
  - Whatever things are true, and honest, and just, and pure, and lovely, and uplifting and virtuous, thoughts that take my mind into the presence of God, not drag it down into the dirt. I will think on these things. I will fight the battle for my mind. I'll get serious about this fight today, and with the helmet on, I will win (Philippians 4:8).
  - If I fight this good fight of faith, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness that God, the righteous judge, is going to give me on the day that starts eternity. And not to me only but to everyone else who keeps the helmet of salvation on and keeps their mind saved (2 Timothy 4:8).
- One day we will trade this helmet for a crown.

KEY SCRIPTURE:
Ephesians 6:17

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. What does the Bible mean by salvation and why is it depicted as a helmet? Discuss/Meditate on this.
2. Having been given the gift of salvation, it is our responsibility to stay steadfast on the path of obedience — what are we to do to keep the helmet of salvation securely fastened?
3. What are some of the ways in which we can keep the 'battlefield of our minds' in favour of God's truth? What role, if any, does faith play in this fight?

Prayer Time
Lord, give us the strength to keep our minds sanctified by the constant renewing of our minds with Your Word. In Jesus' name.

L.G. ice-Breaker: What activities/things you look forward to at the onset of the summer season? Have you experienced them so far this summer?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, JULY 30, 2017

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

(Reminds me/Confirms) (New idea) (Think about)

 (Do this) (Speaks to my heart) (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS