

PERSPECTIVE

SEEING YOUR WORLD THROUGH GOD'S EYES



Pastor Dave Patterson PERSPECTIVE Part 1: The Helmet of Hope

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than answering the questions.

We need to get God's perspective on our world, and He wants us to live from His vantage point. Protect and guard your mind in Christ Jesus, regardless of what you might be facing.

[1 Thessalonians 5: 5-11]

You are all children of the light and of the day; we don't belong to darkness and night. ⁶ So be on your guard, not asleep like the others. Stay alert and be clear-

headed. ⁷ Night is the time when people sleep and drinkers get drunk. ⁸ But let us who live in the light be clearheaded, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and **the hope of salvation as a helmet.**

For God chose to save us through our Lord Jesus Christ, not to pour out his anger on us. ¹⁰ Christ died for us so that, whether we are dead or alive when he returns, we can live with him forever. ¹¹ So **encourage each other and build each other up**, just as you are already doing.

[1 Thessalonians 5:8]

But let us who live in the light be clearheaded, putting on....
the hope of salvation as a helmet.

1. Check your citizenship.

[Philippians 3:20]

*Let all who are spiritually mature agree on these things... **Our citizenship is in heaven** where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior.*

[1 Peter 2:11]

*Beloved, I beg you as **sojourners and pilgrims**, (temporary residents and tourist) keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls.*

[Isaiah 9:7]

And the government will be on his shoulders. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.

2. Don't be anxious.

Replace your stress with thankfulness and your worry with prayer.

[Philippians 4:6-7]

*Don't be anxious (worried) about anything; **instead**, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and **thank him** for all he has done. **Then you will experience** God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.*

3. Wear your helmet!

[Ephesians 6:10-13, 17-18]

*A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world... Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. **Put on salvation as your helmet**, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.*

[1 Thessalonians 5:8]

*But let us who live in the light be clearheaded, putting on....**the hope of salvation as a helmet.***

Hope // a confident expectation that things are going to get better!

[Ephesians 2:12]

*In those days, you were living apart from Christ... You lived in this world **without God and without hope.***

[Hebrews 6:18-20]

So God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us. ¹⁹ This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God's inner sanctuary where Jesus has already gone before us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some things that you're a part of that bring unique perspectives? (i.e. citizenship, beliefs, gender, membership)
2. Have you ever had a "how did I get here" moment? What caused your reality check?
3. How does the spirituality and morality of a nation reflect in its leaders?
4. What does it mean that we are "tourists" on earth, that we're not actually from around here? How does that change how we live?
5. How do we practically combat anxiety? In other words, what tools or habits can reduce your stress level?
6. How does your meditation (what your thoughts are fixed on) dictate the direction of your battle? What creates hope for you?
7. What is it in your life that causes you dread and confusion?
8. Why do we need to perpetually put on our armor?
9. What is the "hope of your salvation?" (Word "sozo" refers to now, ongoing, and future salvation)
10. Pray for one another to increase in hope and God's perspective.