

Armor for the Day

1 Thessalonians 5:8; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 12-26-21

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. – 1 Thessalonians 5:8

1. The Day: Our present should be about the future.

What does it mean to be 'of the day'? 'The day' refers to the day of salvation and the day of the Lord. Those who are 'of the day' see the light of the gospel and everything by it. Those who are 'of the day' are preparing for and prepared for the day of the Lord. Make decisions today like there is 'the Day'! – 1 Thessalonians 5:1-5

2. Soberness: We should be very serious about happiness.

What does it mean to be sober? It means to be under control; in other words, alert to what is going on and acting accordingly. Don't live as if you were a zombie (just going through the motions) or a frat boy (living for the weekend). Those who are sober are not asleep to what is happening. Those who are sober are not intoxicated with the things of the world. To be sober then, is to think rightly and act rightly in light of the pursuit of true happiness in God. – 1 Thessalonians 5:5b-7; John 15:11; Matthew 24:32-44; Luke 21:29-36; Isaiah 52:7

3. Putting On: We must take responsibility for where we are.

What is putting on? Putting on is the picture of clothing ourselves appropriately. We are responsible for our faith and hope and love; in other words, to become more like Christ. We must work and fight and endure in order to clothe our lives more and more in faith and hope and love. We put on 'Christ' and 'faith and hope and love' through faith in the Word and all that goes with receiving it and exercising it. We put on faith and hope and love by God's grace through prayer, meditation on the Word, enduring trials, the hard work of relationships, and constant trial and error. - 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; Romans 13:12, 14; Ephesians 4:20-24; 6:11, 14; Colossians 3:12-14; Isaiah 59:17; Philippians 2:12-13; 1 Timothy 6:12; Hebrews 12:2; Luke 8:15; 1 Corinthians 15:10; Ephesians 2:8; Psalm 119:34; Luke 11:9-13; Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:2; 119:97, 67, 71; Colossians 3:12-14; Philippians 4:9; Luke 8:15

4. Warfare: We must recognize we dance in a minefield.

What is a breastplate? What is a helmet? A breastplate is a piece of armor used in war that is designed to protect the vital organs in the chest area, especially the heart. A helmet is a piece of armor that protects the head. We are in a war that requires armor to survive and to win. Remember to 'dance' (rejoice) but remember you live in a minefield and life is not 'all fun and games.' – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Revelation 12:1-17

5. **Faith: We must work from a position of rest.**

What is faith? Faith is, fundamentally, resting in Jesus and his finished work. Our desires are under constant assault. The breastplate protects the heart (affections/desires/goals). Our desires are connected to what we see/believe to be true and good and beautiful; in other words, our faith. Faith is foundational to everything else. Faith rests in Jesus for pardon and perfection. We are called to rest in Jesus for the assurance of forgiveness and eternal life and the unchanging love of God. Faith or resting in Jesus is the key to overcoming guilt and 'helping the weak.' – 1 Thessalonians 5:14; Galatians 2:20; Romans 4:20; Matthew 11:28-30; Proverbs 4:23; Hebrews 11:6

6. **Love: Our faith must have feet.**

What is love? Love is obedient sacrifice for the good of others. Love is the practice of faith. Love gladly and sacrificially submits to God's Word and will for the glory of God and the good of others, whether they deserve it or not. We are called to pursue love by doing the hard thing (His commands) and trusting God for the good thing (His blessing). Love is obedient (to God's Commands) sacrifice (like the cross of Christ) for sinners (those who deserve the opposite, having failed to love us perfectly, at best, and having sinned against us grievously, at worst) because of God's love for us. Love should be our goal in life (in all relationships and circumstances). – 1 Thessalonians 5:14; Galatians 5:6; 1 John 3:16, 23; 4:19

7. **Hope: Our faith must be far-sighted.**

What is hope? What is salvation? Hope is trusting God's promises for the future. Salvation is deliverance from something and to something. The helmet protects the head (thoughts/mind/worldview). Our thinking is under constant assault. Hope is faith that trusts God's promises for the future. Hope is looking to God for your help and happiness, now and eternally. Salvation is deliverance from sin and to satisfaction in God. Hope answers the question of where to find the good our soul longs for. – 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10, 14; Philippians 4:7; Hebrews 11:1; 1 Peter 1:13; Psalm 42:11

8. **Success: Faith, hope and love are the measure of success.**

Faith is resting in Jesus for pardon and perfection. Hope is looking to God for help and happiness in the future. Love is submitting to God's Word for the good of others. - 1 Thessalonians 1:2-4; 1 Corinthians 13:13

Conclusion: We can't live this way without receiving Jesus!

How do you need to work and fight and endure in order to put on faith, hope and love this New Year? Have you received the Gift?