

I Thessalonians

Class #129 – SUN AM (1) - 1/22/2006

1 Thess 5:8-11

(8) But since we are of the day, let us be sober (exercise self-control), having put on the breastplate of **faith and love...**

The Breastplate

- Faith – PISTIS – that which you have believed and continue to believe from the word of God.
- Love – AGAPE – Personal love for God which provides motivation for everything in life:
 - Motivation to endure.
 - Motivation to love fellow-believers.
 - Motivation when wronged.

1st POD – The breastplate is a military metaphor by which Paul is equating the Christian life to that of a soldier's life.

- The breastplate protects the vital organs of the soldier.

2nd POD – As the soldier must gear up with the breastplate to protect the heart in combat, so the Christian must gear up with breastplate to protect his heart in spiritual combat.

- Heart – KARDIA – vital organ; the seat of spiritual life.

3rd POD – The Christian's spiritual breastplate is composed of faith and love.

4th POD – Faith and love protect the spiritual life of the Christian. Faith and love keeps the Christian alive in [spiritual] combat.

...and as a helmet...

The Helmet – offers protection for our head; protection from a fatal blow to our thinking; protection from fear, doubt and worry.

5th POD – As a soldier must gear up with helmet to protect his head from fatal blows in battle, so the Christian must gear up with a spiritual helmet to protect his thinking from fear, doubt and worry.

...the hope of salvation.

Hope – ELPIS – *confident expectation.*

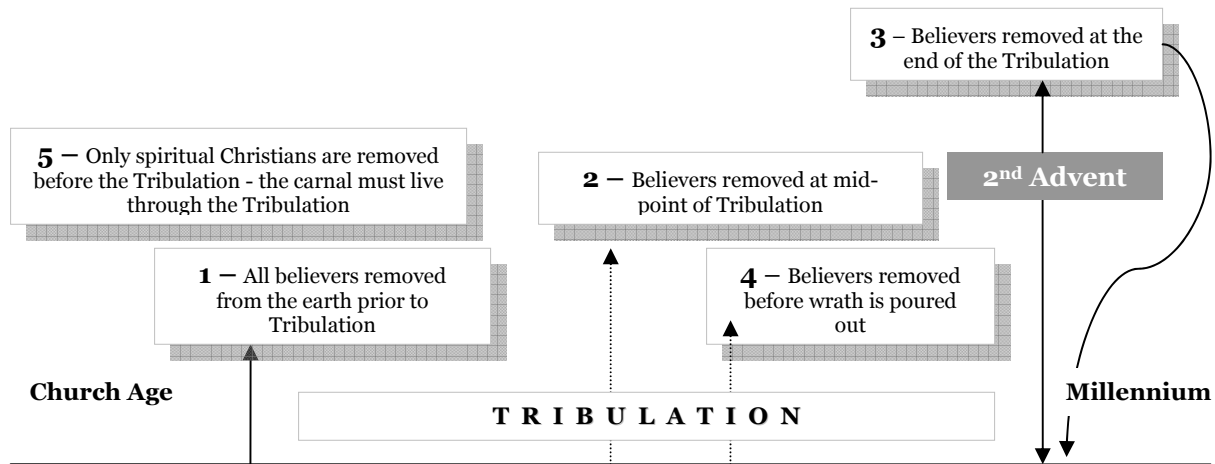
Salvation – SOTERIA – *salvation or deliverance.*

(9) For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation (deliverance by means of the Rapture) through our Lord Jesus Christ,

(10) who died (as a substitute) for us, so that whether we are awake (alive; on earth fighting as soldiers in the Christian way of life) or asleep (dead and therefore face-to-face with our Savior), we will live together with Him.

6th POD – The Christian's spiritual helmet is his confident expectation of being delivered from the "Day of the Lord".

Five Views of the Rapture



- 1) The Pre-tribulation Rapture
- 2) The Mid-tribulation Rapture
- 3) The Post-tribulation Rapture
- 4) The Pre-wrath Rapture
- 5) The Partial Rapture

7th POD – Therefore, the confident expectation of deliverance protects the Christian's thinking in the spiritual advance.

(11) Therefore, (in light of your spiritual advance and your spiritual armor provided) **encourage** (keep on encouraging) **one another and build up** (keep on building up) **one another...**"

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.