

## *Are You Dressed and Ready for His Return?*

### *1 Thessalonians 5:4-15*

In the more than \_\_\_\_\_ verses in the New Testament that talk about the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming, the Bible sometimes uses the analogy of having the right \_\_\_\_\_ on in anticipation of His coming.

Paul wrote 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians in part because some believers there were troubled that the return of Christ hadn't happened as \_\_\_\_\_ as they hoped. Paul explained that Christ's coming is \_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_. We need to live in a constant state of \_\_\_\_\_. If we did look forward to His coming as we should, we would be more diligent regarding our readiness to meet Him. The Bible says that living in readiness involves wearing certain things: a \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_.

We need a breastplate to protect our \_\_\_\_\_. In Biblical times, the heart was the inner place from which things like \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ come. The breastplate guards our hearts so that we will remain steady in our resolve to do His \_\_\_\_\_. It is forged from two spiritual virtues: faith and love. Faith refers to our belief and trust in God. It isn't just an intellectual belief in God but an \_\_\_\_\_ of Him and His will—faith in \_\_\_\_\_.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> element of the breastplate is \_\_\_\_\_—the way we relate to our each other in the church. Love may take the form of warning or encouragement or help or patience, but it always strives for \_\_\_\_\_, never \_\_\_\_\_ on one another and recognizes that we are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, children of the King. A breastplate forged with love guards our heart because many of the challenges and opportunities God places before us are heavy, even burdensome. But we can endure when we \_\_\_\_\_.

Finally, the helmet of salvation that protects the \_\_\_\_\_. The helmet of salvation is knowing that you have \_\_\_\_\_ your life and your future to Jesus Christ by accepting Him. Then, when the evil one says, "God doesn't love you. He doesn't care. He's not coming back." With the helmet of salvation, we can say, "Are you kidding. He died for me so that I can and will \_\_\_\_\_."