

The Shoes of the Gospel of Peace

Series: The Armor of God

Ephesians 6:13,15

February 6, 2022

Today, we continue our series “The Armor of God. We have looked at the Belt of Truth and the Breastplate of Righteousness. We’re ready for our next piece of armor.

Let me read from Ephesians 6:

Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God’s righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared.¹

Today’s armor is the shoes of the Gospel of peace.

In the ancient armor, if the feet or legs are materially wounded, a soldier could neither stand to resist his foe, pursue him if vanquished, nor flee from him should he have the worst of the fight.

One of the overlooked areas of preparing for a battle against the evil one is “What kind of footwear do we need?”

The footwear is very specific to the mission. In the Army, they provide specific boots depending upon your job. You have jump boots for paratroopers, jungle boots to hot and wet climates, winter boots for cold weather, etc. You wouldn’t issue jungle boots if your mission involves snow and ice because they don’t provide any traction on that type of surface so you can’t stand or fight.

Same thing is true in other areas. Shoes are important. Go to a shoe store today, and you might find all kinds of shoes. Crocs, boots, casual shoes, dress shoes, sandals, flip-flops, and more. The message conveyed is, “Shoes are really important, and you need different types for different activities.”

Now, I cannot be called a connoisseur of footwear; I’m sure there are a few Imelda Marcus’ listening to me, but I do know enough to know that certain shoes are for certain things, but for the life of me, I cannot understand the purpose of stiletto heels and why any woman would go through the pain to wear them.

But I’m sure you ladies will tell me that sometimes, what shoes you wear is determined by what it is you want to accomplish.

The same is true of the Christian and the footwear God gives us for battle.

I want to share five observations regarding these shoes for they allow us to be:

First, protected.

I wear shoes all the time, even in the house. For the last 9 days, all I’ve wore are my house slippers, for 2 reasons: my feet get cold easily, and they are sensitive. I don’t to smash or do something wrong to my toes. I don’t like sandals for the same reason.

Historians tell us that the Roman soldier was the greatest fighting machine known to man up to that time, and one reason for that was their footwear. They had great footwear. Their studded half boots enabled them to travel great distances. They covered a lot of ground in a short amount of time, pursuing the enemy into every nook and cranny. They went into hard places.

¹ Ephesians 6:13-15 (NLT2)

With the shoes of the Gospel of peace, we are not afraid where we need to go. We need to go to every nook and cranny as we take the Gospel to faraway places, even hard places, because our feet are protected.

Second, the shoes of the Gospel of peace allow us to stand.

Paul's guard had to stand there for long periods of time. Any guard in the military stands for long periods of time, watching out, defending their home base, their position.

The shoes of the Gospel of peace allow us to stand and resist our enemy, or foe, Satan. How? Through peace.

FURNACE WENT OUT IN THE MIDST OF THE SNOW AND ICE STORM.

Ephesians 2:14 says:

*For Christ himself has brought peace to us.*²

We can stand against our foe with Christ's peace.

Third, the shoes of the Gospel of peace allow us to move.

In those shoe stores that I used to go to, you can find shoes for biking, hiking, running, power walking. You've got shoes for playing tennis or basketball, cleats for baseball, softball and football. These are designed to help you move.

The Israelites were commanded to eat the Passover with their shoes on, to show that they were ready for their journey. And when Jesus sent His disciples out on their mission, He specifically mentioned footwear. Why? So that they might be ready to go and spread the Gospel, as the Israelites were to be ready to go to possess the Promised Land. Every Christian should consider ourselves on a journey from a strange land to our own country, and not only stand every moment prepared to proceed, but be every moment in actual progress towards home.

The sign of the Christian is that he or she is eager to be on the way to share the Gospel with others who have not heard it.

Fourth, the shoes of the Gospel of peace allow us to be prepared.

The Greek word which we translate preparation, is understood in various ways: some think it means an habitual readiness in walking in the way prescribed by the Gospel; others that firmness and solidity which the Gospel gives to them who conscientiously believe its doctrines; others, those virtues and graces which in the first planting of Christianity were indispensably necessary to those who published it.

According to one commentator, the word translated "preparation" is used in classical Greek in the sense of a firm foundation. This is fitting as a symbol of one's feet upon which one stands. You need a good foundation in fighting evil, and the Gospel is a best foundation of all.³

Because we have the Gospel of peace, we are prepared for whatever comes.

Finally, let's talk about this peace.

Uniquely, this is the only time this phrase "Gospel of peace" is used in the New Testament, though it is true.

The Gospel is termed the Gospel of peace because it establishes peace between God and humanity, and proclaims peace and good will to the universe. The contentions, strife, quarrels, and wars we are witnessing in our day, these evil days, come for Satan, the prince of this kingdom, who wants nothing but to destroy.

² Ephesians 2:14a (NLT2)

³ Analytical Bible Expositor - Galatians-Colossians, Ephesians 6:15

The child that was born to us, that son that was given to us, upon whom the government will rest. He is called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.⁴ He brings an alien nature and design to the world, one full of love and compassion to all.

Paul is basically saying believers should always be ready to share the gospel. Be ready to herald the good news of Christ.

Remember, Paul tells us to take up the whole armor. Paul does not say one guy can put on the breastplate (because he is all about holiness), another can put on the belt (because she likes truth). No, each of us must take up the whole armor, the whole character of Christ, including announcing the Gospel of peace.

What are we announcing? Paul says it is the “gospel of peace.” Isaiah says:

*How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the messenger who brings good news, the good news of peace and salvation, the news that the God of Israel reigns!*⁵

Earlier in Ephesians, Paul told us that through the blood of Christ, we are brought near to God.⁶ We are reconciled to God and enjoy the peace of God through the death of Jesus.⁷ Paul also says of Jesus that “He brought this Good News of peace...”⁸

Jesus was the ultimate One with beautiful feet, who came with His gospel shoes, announcing peace to Jews and Gentiles. Those who know Christ have His peace and have this same mission.

In the midst of this passage on warfare is a message of peace. This is the difference with our mission and other religious missions. We are not taking life; we are offering life. We are willing even to lay our lives down because Christ laid His down for us, and we know He will raise us up.⁹

But what we offer in this very evil world is peace, life, eternity.

⁴ See Isaiah 9:6

⁵ Isaiah 52:7 (NLT2)

⁶ See Ephesians 2:11-22

⁷ See Romans 5:1

⁸ Ephesians 2:17a (NLT2)

⁹ Christ-Centered Exposition - Exalting Jesus In Ephesians: Christ-Centered Exposition, Ephesians 6:15