

“...and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace...”
Ephesians 6:15

Sure Footing

The Armor of God – The Shoes of the Gospel of Peace Ephesians 6

It's a battle out there. Sometimes I don't even want to crawl out of bed because I know just the traffic to work will be a battlefield. Paul says that we do not wrestle the things of this world, but that our fight is in the spiritual realm which is all around us.

Bummer. I guess sleeping in will not help me avoid the battle.

God gives us weapons of war. There is the belt, the breastplate, the helmet, the shield, the sword, and the shoes.

Shoes, like the belt, are more of a fashion statement today. I have known people to have shoes for every occasion. There are dress shoes, work shoes, and leisure shoes. There are also special shoes for every sport, sometimes several types for a given sport. A tennis player might wear one type of shoe on a concrete court, another kind on clay, and still another on grass. Likewise, football and baseball players wear different shoes to play on different surfaces.

What makes a pair of shoes a good pair of shoes?

We each have different reasons that we like shoes, but in reality shoes are primarily to protect our feet.

Why do you think a Roman soldier's shoes were important?

Roman soldier's shoes had a much different purpose than the shoes you may have on, because a soldier's very life could depend on them. As he marches on rough, hot roads, climbs over jagged rocks, tramples over thorns, and wades through streambeds of jagged stones, his feet need much protection. A soldier whose feet are blistered, cut, or swollen cannot fight well and often is not even able to stand up—a perilous situation in battle.

In addition to being made tough and durable to protect his feet, the Roman soldier's shoes, or boots, were usually impregnated with bits of metal or nails to give him greater traction as he climbed a slippery cliff and greater stability as he fought. It may have also been used on the battle field to finish off any fallen enemy.

A Christian's spiritual footwear is equally important. Verse 15 says, "And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace." The Greek word for preparation has the general meaning of readiness. A good pair of boots allows the soldier to be ready to march, climb, fight, or do whatever else is necessary.

"For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life."
Romans 5:6-10

"What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."
Romans 8:31, 37-39

Okay. So it is easy to understand the need for shoes, but how does a gospel of peace fit on a field of war? What do you think Paul is saying?

Our understanding comes from Romans 5 where Paul explains that we are unrighteous sinners, who are under God's wrath. He continues to explain the wonderful work that Christ did on the cross.

Read Romans 5:6-10.

Did you see it? Paul explains that believers were enemies, but because of Christ's death we are now reconciled or at peace with God. This is how Paul starts out the chapter. We now have peace with God. We are on God's side. We are reconciled. This readiness of the gospel of peace is the ability to stand firm knowing that we are at peace with God.

This idea of peace with God in the midst of a battle has some awesome ramifications. What are some ramifications of being at peace with God in battle?

Do you remember the story of Peter and John before the Sanhedrin? They told the council that they couldn't obey the command to stop preaching because they were going to serve God (Acts 5:27-29). They had no fear because they knew who was on their side. They could stand firm and ready with the gospel of peace. They were at peace.

The believer who stands in the Lord's power need not fear any enemy, even Satan himself. When he comes to attack us, our feet are rooted firmly on the solid ground of the gospel of peace. We, who were once His enemies, are now His children, and our heavenly Father offers us His full resources to "be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might" (Eph. 6:10).

Read Romans 8:31, 37-39.

Do you really believe that God is for you? Is there an area in your life that you are not at peace about? Put it into words.

Now take that thing and offer it to God. Having your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace is knowing that at this moment you are at peace with God and therefore can stand firm in a world that is in turmoil and chaos.

It's a battle out there. Are you at peace?

What do you need to do in response to this lesson?
