

# **The Soldier's Shoes**

**Ephesians 6:13-15**

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**Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.**

# Foundational Factors

- **Belt, Breastplate, Shoes – basic and essential equipment that does not get much attention.**
- **Shield, Helmet, and Sword – the next three – are more noticeable.**
- **Truth, Righteousness, the Gospel – basic and essential spiritual armor. Without these the other spiritual armor is weakened in conflict.**

# Shoes of Roman Legions

- Enabled them to stand firm in muddy ground.
- Enabled them to advance in all kinds of ground.
- Protected them from attack.
- Enabled them to move together in Phalanxes.



# Our Commitment to the Gospel

- Enables us to stand in the muddy morality of modern society.
- Enables the church to stand and advance together.
- Protects us from attack.



# **1. Feet Fitted: Take the Gospel to Heart**

- It takes time and effort to put on shoes.**
- Each person must believe personally in Christ.**
- Satan is the “accuser of the brethren,” and our safety against accusation is found in the gospel.**
- “There is now, therefore, no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 8:1).**

# **Itching Ears: 2 Tim. 4:1-4**

**I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus ... preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.**

# **The Gospel, 1 Cor. 15:3-6**

**For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.**

## **2. Readiness: Prepare to Move Out**

- A soldier cannot advance or keep up with others if his shoes are not on.**
- This means being grounded in the Gospel – understand it, investigate it, think on it.**
- This means sharing God's love in Christ.**
- We exist as a church not to please ourselves, or to keep in step with modern society, but to bear witness and make disciples of Christ.**

# The Phalanx

- **Soldiers fighting together**
- **Supporting one another**
- **Standing in close formation**
- **Preventing an enemy from coming into their midst**



# **3. The Gospel of Peace**

- Peace with God – to know that we are forgiven and redeemed in Christ.**
- Peace with ourselves – The removal of the stigma of sin by the cross of Christ.**
- Peace with others – Christ brings people together in peace.**
- The Return of Christ – the whole world will one day know perfect peace again.**

# **Albert Barnes, Bible Scholar**

**“Christians ...were not to be furnished with carnal weapons, but with the peaceful gospel of the Redeemer; and, sustained by this, they were to go on in their march through the world. The principles of the gospel were to do for them what the greaves and iron-spiked sandals did for the soldier - to make them ready for the march, to make them firm in their foot-tread, and to be a part of their defense against their foes.”**