Stand in the Evil Day pt4 Righteousness and Peace

Ephesians 6:10-18

Ephesians 6:10-18 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ¹³ 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.

14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints

Introduction:

This last year, 2020 there have been a record 17 million guns purchased. This is in addition to the already owned 350 million, to 400 million guns owned. (at least the ones we know of) For every 100 Americans, there are 120 guns.

And if you go to purchase an 9mm ammo, the shelve resemble the what it looked like at the beginning of Covid when you tried to purchase toilet paper. EMPTY

(Doug Wilson Canon Press "State of the Church")

This is a reflection of a year of great uncertainty. So much instability. We all understand that this Country and the values that we hold dear are under attack. This is much more than a physical attack. Its more than the pulling down of statues, the removal of our history. Its more that riots in the streets and burning of the buildings. It is more than the Covid virus that has more misinformation than information available. Its more than the Antifa planned and orchestrated event to overrun the capital.

This is ideological, more specifically it is ideological subversion. It is an attempt to radically

transform our thinking and mold us into an entirely unbiblical world view,

Secretary Pompeo recently stated regarding our current situation we find ourselves in the United States.

This isn't a cold war, this isn't about containment. This something different. Its about a complex new challenge, we have not faced before. The USSR was closed off from the free world, Communist China is already within our borders.

Now many find what is going on in our country interesting for conversation and speculation... but for many if not most, that is all it is.

They have their nice homes, there jobs and children, they love there church and christian music. But regarding the radical transformation of the world view of Americans they are oblivious or just don't care.

The Apathy and complacency is astounding, and will lead to the destruction of this country.

And just like Communist China is already within the borders of the US. The enemy of the church has been within the church walls for a long time. They came in a number of different ways. They came overtly and covertly, through a numbers of means through media, both digital and printed. And in some cases the church actively and openly invited the enemy in. For many the churches primary focus is all about buildings bodies and budgets. More time is spent on the next trend in Christianity or the next fad than the equipping of the Saints.

We are in a war, and much of the church is asleep at the wheel.

What did Paul say, 2 Corinthians 10:3–4 (NKJV)

³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God

war

strateuó: to make war, hence to serve as a soldier

Original Word: στρατεύομαι

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: strateuó

Phonetic Spelling: (strat-yoo'-om-ahee)

Definition: to make war, to serve as a soldier

Usage: I wage war, fight, serve as a soldier; fig: of the warring lusts against the soul.

4754 strateúomai – properly, to contend, fighting like a soldier in war; (figuratively) to engage in spiritual warfare.

mighty

dunatos: strong, mighty, powerful

Original Word: δυνατός, ή, όν

Part of Speech: Adjective Transliteration: dunatos

Phonetic Spelling: (doo-nat-os')

Definition: strong, mighty, powerful

Usage: (a) of persons: powerful, able, (b) of things: possible.

Lesson:

The Exhortation

The Explanation

The Equipment

I. The Exhortation

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God,

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong (pres Imperative) in the Lord and in the power of His might.

How to do this is explained in the next verses. We are to Put on the Whole Armor of God and that we may be able to stand.

11 Put (Aorist Imp.) on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

13 Therefore take up (Aorist Imp,) the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

I. The Exhortation

II. The Explanation

There are 3 reasons to have the whole armor on to be able to stand

- 1. The Age
- 2. The Activity
- 3. The Adversaries

1. The Age

13 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.

Ephesians 5:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

2 Timothy 3:1-8 (NKJV)

- 3 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:
- 2 Peter 3:3 (NKJV)
- ³ knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,
- 2 Thessalonians 2:3 (NKJV)
- ³ Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

2. The Activity

¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the <u>wiles of the</u> devil.

3. The Adversaries

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

- I. The Exhortation
- II. The Explanation
- III. The Equipment

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth,

Stand Aorist Imperative. 2nd person Plural

histémi: to make to stand, to stand

Original Word: ἵστημι

Part of Speech: Verb Transliteration: histémi

Phonetic Spelling: (his'-tay-mee)

Definition: to make to stand, to stand

Usage: trans: (a) I make to stand, place, set up, establish, appoint; mid: I place myself, stand, (b) I set in balance, weigh; intrans: (c) I stand, stand by,

stand still; met: I stand ready, stand firm, am steadfast.

Our responsibility is to **resist** and **stand firm**. When Martin Luther stood before the Diet of Worms he was accused of heresy. After being condemned for declaring that men are saved by faith alone in Christ alone, he declared, "My conscience is captive to the Word of God.... Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise." Every believer who is faithful to God's Word cannot do otherwise than **stand firm**.

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1986). *Ephesians* (p. 343). Chicago: Moody Press.

14 Stand therefore

oun: therefore, then, (and) so

Original Word: oûv

Part of Speech: Conjunction

Transliteration: OUN

Phonetic Spelling: (OON)

Definition: therefore, then, (and) so

Usage: therefore, then.

3767 oun (a conjunction) – therefore, now then, accordingly so. 3767 (oun) occurs 526 times in the NT and is typically translated "therefore" which means, "By extension, here's how the dots connect."

The rest of the text is filled with how and with what we are to stand.

The Participles (verbal/adjectives) they speak of action and description.

The four participles which follow the imperative 'stand', namely, 'having fastened the belt of truth', 'having put on the breastplate of righteousness' (v. 14), 'having fitted your feet' (v. 15), and 'having taken up the shield of faith' (v. 16), spell out the actions believers need to have taken if they are to stand firm. Given the context, these participles could also be taken as having an implied imperatival force.

O'Brien, P. T. (1999). *The letter to the Ephesians* (p. 473). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

Paul is telling us to stand, and to stand firm, but when doing so, make sure you have this equipment. Or another way of saying it is you can't stand unless you have this equipment.

First piece of Armor is TRUTH

1¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth,
______ στητε ουν περιζωσαμενοι την οσφυν υμων εν αληθεια

Instrumental case with truth αληθεια

This can be summed up with 2 words

- 1. **Objective Truth**= contained in the Bible, doctrine
- 2. <u>Subjective Truth</u>= Moral truth- Truthfulness, integrity. No hypocrisy, genuine.

This is the basic foundation of all the armor. All other pieces depend upon the accuracy and practice of the Truth.

This is also the beach head of all attacks. This is where is starts. Sadly, to many have compromised or have allowed themselves to become lazy regarding the pursuit and practice of the Truth. Hence they are very vulnerable to the Enemy.

In our context today, there is a huge amount of misinformation. It takes a great deal of labor to work through it all and discern the truth. That is just what is currently in our physical and political world.

When it comes to the church, the shores have been overrun by the enemy and he has made tremendous gains taking up strongholds in strategic places like our seminaries and in leaders of large and small evangelical churches. We have lost a tremendous amount of ground, due to our lack of diligence and an over abundance of cowardice in leadership.

But lest we be all pessimistic, I want to tell you that Jesus has promised and has ordained that He will build His church and the gates of Hell will not prevail against it.

It has been proven over and over, that when the Devil seems to have stripped the church of her beauty and caused her integrity to wane, and plunged much of Christianity into darkness, it is then that God raises up a Martin Luther, or a George Whitfield, or a Jonathan Edwards, the Puritans, or in more contemporary times, a Martyn Lloyd Jones, James Montgomery Boice, R C Sproul or John MacArthur. There is indeed Light after Darkness.

Now to the second piece of armor.

2. The Breastplate of Righteousness.

14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

στητε ουν περιζωσαμενοι την οσφυν υμων εν αληθεια <u>και ενδυσαμενοι τον</u> <mark>θωρακα</mark> της δικαιοσυνης

Isaiah 59:17 (NKJV)

17 For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, And a helmet of salvation on His head; He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, And was clad with zeal as a cloak.

The Breastplate

θωρακα thórax: a breastplate

Original Word: θώραξ, ακός, ὁ Part of Speech: Noun, Masculine

Transliteration: thórax

Phonetic Spelling: (tho'-rax)

Definition: a breastplate

Usage: a breast-plate, corslet, cuirass.

2382 thóraks (the root of the English term, "thorax") – properly, a breastplate ("coat of mail") which protected the chest and extended down to the hips; (figuratively) what protects the heart (our capacity of moral preference).

2382 /thóraks ("breastplate of faith-righteousness") protects the heart and its emotions (desires) as they bear on our decisions (resolutions, sympathies, etc.). See 4102 /pistis ("the Lord's inbirthed persuasion").

No Roman soldier would go into battle without his **breastplate**, a tough, sleeveless piece of armor that covered his full torso. It was often made of leather or heavy linen, onto which were sewn overlapping slices of animal hooves or horns or pieces of metal. Some were made of large pieces of metal molded or hammered to conform to the body. The purpose of that piece of armor is obvious—to protect the heart, lungs, intestines, and other vital organs.

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1986). *Ephesians* (p. 351). Chicago: Moody Press.

In ancient Jewish thinking, the heart represented the mind and the will and the bowels were considered the seat of emotions and feelings.

Proverbs 23:7 (NKJV)

⁷ For as he thinks in his heart, so *is* he.

Matthew 15:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts,...

Genesis 6:5 (NKJV)

5wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every intent of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.

Emotions as bowels

Colossians 3:12 (NKJV)

¹² Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on <u>tender mercies</u>, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;

Philippians 1:8 (NKJV)

⁸ For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the **affection** of Jesus Christ.

plagchnon: the inward parts (heart, liver, lungs, etc.), fig. the emotions

Original Word: σπλάγχνα, ων, τά

Part of Speech: Noun, Neuter Transliteration: splagchnon

Phonetic Spelling: (splangkh'-non)

Definition: the inward parts (heart, liver, lungs, etc.), the emotions **Usage:** the inward parts; the heart, affections, seat of the feelings.

4698 splágxnon – properly, the internal organs ("viscera"); (figuratively) "gut-level compassion" (visceral feelings); the capacity to feel deep emotions (sympathy, empathy, etc.).

The mind and the emotions are the two areas where Satan most fiercely attacks believers.

He creates a world system, a sinful environment by which he tempts us to think wrong thoughts and to feel wrong emotions. He wants to cloud our minds with false doctrine, false principles, and false information in order to mislead and confuse us. He also wants to confuse our emotions and thereby pervert our affections, morals, loyalties, goals, and commitments. He desires to snatch the Word of God from our minds and replace it with his own perverse ideas.

He seeks to undermine pure living and replace it with immorality, greed, envy, hate, and every other vice. He wants us to laugh at sin rather than mourn over it, and to rationalize it rather than confess it and bring it to the Lord for forgiveness. He seduces us to

become so used to sin in us and around us that it no longer bothers our conscience.

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1986). *Ephesians* (p. 351). Chicago: Moody Press.

While armour for the back was sometimes provided, none is mentioned here suggesting that if the Christian warrior does not stand firm but turns and runs he is completely vulnerable. The same would be true of the shield (v. 16) which was held in front of, or over the top of, the body

Best, E. (1998). <u>A critical and exegetical commentary on Ephesians</u> (p. 598). Edinburgh: T&T Clark International.

So what is this Breastplate.

Obviously it is not literal leather, or metal It is described in the verse.

14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

στητε ουν περιζωσαμενοι την οσφυν υμων εν αληθεια και ενδυσαμενοι τον θωρακα της δικαιοσυνης

What righteousness is Paul referring to.

Two Types in the Bible regarding the Believer.

- 1. Positional Righteousness
- 2. Practical Righteousness

Both are critical, Both are important, both are essential.

But one depends on the other

Practical Righteousness depends on Positional Righteousness

1. Positional Righteousness is Imputed Righteousness

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)

²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Romans 5:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

Romans 3:20–22 (NKJV)

²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;

Righteousness is absolutely essential to be right with God.

We need more than forgiveness of sin, that would keep us from experiencing the expression of the justice of God in wrath.

We need Righteousness to see God.

Hebrews 12:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Pursue peace with all *people*, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:

Zechariah 3:1–7 (NKJV)

3 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him. ² And the Lord said to Satan, "The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord who has

chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! *Is* this not a brand plucked from the fire?"

- ³ Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and was standing before the Angel.
- ⁴ Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, "Take away the filthy garments from him." And to him He said, "See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes."
- ⁵ And I said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head."

So they put a clean turban on his head, and they put the clothes on him. And the Angel of the Lord stood by.

This is clearly a reference to the imputed righteousness.

But this issues in practical holiness

⁶ Then the Angel of the Lord admonished Joshua, saying, ⁷ "Thus says the Lord of hosts:

'If you will walk in My ways,
And if you will keep My command,
Then you shall also judge My house,
And likewise have charge of My courts;
I will give you places to walk
Among these who stand here.

Both are essential but I don't believe that Pauls has in mind the imputed righteousness

The imputed in essential for the practical.

The Imputed is forensic, it is legal. It is our standing.

This righteousness cannot be overcome. It cannot be assaulted. It cannot be change. This is a legal declaration based on the work Christ and our position in Him.

Romans 8:1 (NKJV)

8 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

Romans 8:30–35 (NKJV)

- ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.
- ³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? *It is* God who justifies. ³⁴ Who *is* he who

condemns? *It is* Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Romans 8:38–39 (NKJV)

³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

So our position is secured in Christ, not because of us but because of His accomplishment on the Cross. The Sufficient and perfect satisfaction fo the Justice of God in the death of Christ.

BUT, the practice of Righteousness can be attacked, can be overcome, can fail at times. We will sin, we can be tempted and we can be disobedient.

This is the reason for all the commands in Scriptures to remain faithful and to remain holy.

In the same Book of Ephesians, Paul talks much of this.

Ephesians 4:17-5:1 (NKJV)

- ¹⁷ This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind,
- ²² put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, ²³ and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.
- ²⁵ Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another.
- ²⁶ "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, ²⁷ nor give place to the devil. ²⁸ Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with *his* hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.
- ²⁹ Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were

sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. ³² And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

5 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.

Add to this the way that Paul refers to the application of the Believers Armor

We are to put it on.

Aorist MIDDLE, Participle.

enduo: I put on, clothe

Original Word: ἐνδύω

Part of Speech: Verb Transliteration: enduo

Phonetic Spelling: (en-doo'-o)

Definition: to clothe or be clothed with (in the sense

of sinking into a garment)

Usage: I put on, clothe (another).

From en and duno (in the sense of sinking into a garment); to invest with clothing (literally or

figuratively) -- array, clothe (with), endue, have (put) on.

In many Greek verbs, the middle and the passive look the same. And the only way you can know which way to take them is by the context.

So in this case we are to:

gird our waist put on the breastplate shod our feet with the gospel of peace take the shield of faith and the sword of the spirit.

It is clearly better to understand as a middle reflexive verb.

We are to do this, not have it done to us (passive).

It is this practical righteousness, holiness that is the weapon against the attacks of the devil today.

A practical, disciplined obedience to Christ is key to success in the battle again the evils of the day.

Proverbs 13:5-6 (NKJV)

5 A righteous man hates lying, But a wicked man is loathsome and comes to shame. ⁶ Righteousness guards *him whose* way is blameless,

But wickedness overthrows the sinner.

Proverbs 11:3–8 (NKJV)

- The integrity of the upright will guide them, But the perversity of the unfaithful will destroy them.
- ⁴ Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, But righteousness <u>delivers from death.</u>
- 5 The righteousness of the blameless will direct his way aright,
 - But the wicked will fall by his own wickedness.
- ⁶ The righteousness of the upright <u>will deliver them</u>, But the unfaithful will be caught by *their* lust.
- 8 The righteous is <u>delivered from trouble</u>, And it comes to the wicked instead.

Psalm 25:21 (NKJV)

²¹ Let integrity and uprightness <u>preserve me</u>, For I wait for You.

Holiness protects the Mind

Romans 12:1–2 (NKJV)

12 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

2 Corinthians 10:3–5 (NKJV)

. ³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, <u>bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ</u>,

Holiness protects the passions

1 Peter 2:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ Beloved, I beg *you* as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,

Holiness protects against the accusations of men

Men in General

1 Peter 2:12

¹² having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by *your* good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Authorities of Men

1 Peter 2:13-15 (NKJV)

¹³ Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, ¹⁴ or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and *for the* praise of those who do good. ¹⁵ For this is the will of God, that by doing good

you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men—

Holiness ensures the Protection and Blessing of God.

1 Peter 3:8-12 (NKJV)

⁸ Finally, all *of you be* of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, *be* tenderhearted, *be* courteous; ⁹ not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. ¹⁰ For

"He who would love life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit.

- 11 Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it.
- 12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

The Third Piece of Armor

15 and <u>having shod</u> your feet with the **preparation** of the gospel of peace;

και υποδησαμενοι τους ποδας εν ετοιμασια του ευαγγελιου της ειρηνης

having shod Aorist Middle υποδησαμενοι

Original Word: ὑποδέω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: hupodeó

Phonetic Spelling: (hoop-od-eh'-o)

Definition: to bind under

Usage: (lit: I bind under), mid: I put on my feet, pass: I

am shod.

deó: to tie, bind Original Word: δέωPart of Speech: Verb Transliteration: deó

Phonetic Spelling: (deh'-o)

Definition: to tie, bind

Usage: I bind, tie, fasten; I impel, compel; I declare to be prohibited and unlawful.

"Having bound under" (sandals). First aorist middle participle of ὑποδεω [$hupode\bar{o}$], old word, to bind under

Robertson, A. T. (1933). *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Eph 6:15). Nashville, TN: Broadman Press.

preparation ετοιμασια

hetoimasia: preparation

Original Word: ἑτοιμασία, ας, ἡ Part of Speech: Noun, Feminine

Transliteration: hetoimasia **Phonetic Spelling:** (het-oy-mas-ee'-ah)

Definition: preparation

Usage: foundation, firm footing; preparation, readiness.

hetoimazó: to prepare

Original Word: ἑτοιμάζω

Part of Speech: Verb Transliteration: hetoimazó

Phonetic Spelling: (het-oy-mad'-zo)

Definition: to prepare

usage: I make ready, prepare.

Cognate: 2090 hetoimázō – prepare, make

(made) ready. See 2092 (hetoimos).

Today we have shoes for every conceivable type of activity. We have dress shoes, work shoes, leisure shoes. In athletics there are 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.

A soldier's shoes are more important even than an athlete's, because his very life could depend on them. As he marches on rough, hot roads, climbs over jagged rocks, tramples over thorns, and wades through stream beds 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 be able to stand up—a perilous situation in battle. He cannot very well handle his sword or shield and cannot advance rapidly or even retreat.

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.

A Christian's spiritual footwear is equally important in his warfare against the schemes of the devil. If he has carefully girded his loins with truth and put on the breastplate of righteousness, but does not properly **shod** his **feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace**, he is destined to stumble, fall, and suffer many defeats.

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1986). *Ephesians* (p. 354). Chicago: Moody Press.

15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

και υποδησαμενοι τους ποδας εν ετοιμασια του ευαγγελιου της ειρηνης

There are 2 kinds of Peace that the Believer has

1. **Objective-** The Peace between God and man A cessation of war.

2. Subjective- Peace in the midst of trouble, the peace that passes all understanding.

One is dependent on the other.

One is dependent on a belief in the Sovereignty of God.

The Peace that passes understanding can only happen if we have Peace with God

And the Peace that passes understanding can only happen if we understand that the battle is ordained by God.

Most likely what Paul has in mind is the Objective Peace.

The Subjective Peace is just that, to subjective and it can vacillate.

The Objective Peace is concrete and gives a sure footing for the believer. It reassures the believer of God being on there side in the battle.

Romans 5:1 (NKJV)

5 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

notice "Peace with God, not peace of God"

Why would we need peace.

Romans 5:8–10 (NKJV)

⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

¹⁰ For if when 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.

Colossians 1:21 (NKJV)

²¹ And you, who <u>once were alienated and enemies</u> in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled ²² in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—

Matthew 10:28 (NKJV)

²⁸ And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Colossians 1:19-20

¹⁹ For it pleased *the Father that* in Him all the fullness should dwell, ²⁰ and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

The Spirit-filled believer who is fully clad in God's armor can sing confidently with John Newton,

Though many foes beset you round, And feeble is your arm, Your life is hid with Christ in God Beyond the realm of harm.

Weak as you are you shall not fade, Or fainting shall not die; Jesus the strength of every saint Will aid you from on high.

Though unperceived by mortal sense, Faith sees Him always near, A guide, a glory, a defense, What have you to fear?

As surely as He overcame, And triumphed once for you,

So surely you that love His name Shall in Him triumph too.

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1986). *Ephesians* (p. 356). Chicago: Moody Press.