

The Christian's Armor Part 3

Have Your Feet Shod

Text: Ephesians 6:10-18 “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints...”

Purpose: Paul wrote this section, recognizing both the reality of the constant conflict with spiritual wickedness in high places, and the means by which God strengthens Christians in the battle so they can be victorious.

Proposition: God wants you to live a victorious Christian life.

Interrogative: How can we live a victorious Christian life?

Review

Article 1: Have your loins girt about with truth

Article 2: Have on the breastplate of righteousness

Article 3: Have your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace:

Question 1: What is it? When a soldier went into battle, he needed sure footing when they enemy attacked. This is similar to a sound stance by a boxer or wrestler. Having sure footing was very similar to having your robe pulled up, in order to give you freedom to move about in battle.

Question 2: What is a common way that this piece of equipment is understood?

- **Be ready to give the gospel: 1 Peter 3:15** “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear...”
- **By implication, if we are zealous evangelists, we will stay fresh and ready to face Satan's attacks.**
- **By giving the gospel, we will be on the offensive, and therefore will not be as vulnerable to Satan's attacks.**
- **The weakness of this common interpretation is that it misses the nature of the illustration being used. This is not a weapon, but rather a piece of equipment used to give us stability.**
- **Preaching the gospel and having a distinctly godly walk will put you in the midst of the battle and make you a target for the enemy: 1 Peter 4:1-6** Forasmuch then as

Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God. For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you: Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead. For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

Question 3: What is it actually talking about?

- It is the firm conviction, that rather than being God’s enemies, or under His wrath, we are at peace with Him.
- This piece of equipment is primarily dealing with our conscience before God, and whether or not we feel that we are in His favor, rather than under His wrath.

Several New Testament Passages that Develop this concept and apply it to specific needs in the Christian’s daily walk:

- **The peace that God has established between us and Him, is to be the basis by which we relate to others: Colossians 3:12-15** Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body...
- **The laws demands for God’s just wrath has been focused on Christ on the cross, removing His just wrath from us: Colossians 2:13-14** “And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross...”
Ephesians 2:1-7 “And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; ² Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus...”
- **A rich explanation of the wrath of God being removed by the cross: Romans 5:1-10** “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God...For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love

toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life...”

Question 4: How does Satan attack us in this area?

- He plants thoughts in our heart that we are under God’s displeasure and anger.
- He plants unbalanced views of God’s character.
- He takes advantage of difficult circumstances to plant seeds of doubts of God’s love.
- He constantly reminds us of our failures even after we have dealt with them properly before the Lord.
- He takes scriptures out of context to convince us that we are under God’s wrath.

Question 5: How does this piece of armor meet the need?

- **The gospel reminds us that Christ is...**
 - Our peace with God
 - Our righteousness
 - Our perfect obedience
 - Our propitiation.
- **The gospel reminds us that...**
 - His death and shed blood provided a full atonement for our sins.
 - His fulfillment of the Law has provided a righteous legal verdict before God.
 - His saving work has given me full access to God and placed me in a position of His favor, by grace alone.
- **When our inner man condemns us...**
 - And we feel that God hates us, we are reminded that there is now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus...**Romans 8**
 - And we think fellowship could never be restored, we are reminded that He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness and that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin...**1 John 1**
 - And we think we have crossed the line of God’s love and we feel abandoned, we are reminded of the promise that He will never leave us or forsake us. **Hebrews 13**
 - And we are experiencing the painful consequences of our sin and we doubt God’s love, we are reminded that whom the Lord loves He chastens...**Hebrews 12**

Conclusion: God wants us to have a settled soul that is free from the fear of condemnation and resting confidently in our position in Christ. May we be people who have our feet stabilized by the wonderful truth that we are accepted before God, and His wrath has been removed!