

Sunday, July 7, 2013—The Battlefield of the Mind—The Sandals of Piece

Introduction/Review

- Last week we studied the Breastplate of Righteousness

The Sandals of Piece

- Ephesians 6:15—the next piece of armor that Paul’s instructs believers to “put on” is commonly referred to as the sandals of piece.
- “And your feet shod”—the Greek word translated “shod” means to underbind, to bind under oneself, or to bind on.
 - Mark 6:9—“but be shod with sandals”
 - Acts 12:8—“bind on thy sandals”
- In English, the word “shod” is a synonym for “shoed,” according to *Webster’s 1828 Dictionary*.
- In the context, Paul is clearly referring to the sandals that were worn by a Roman soldier of the first century. These sandals were made of stiff leather with iron studs or spikes in the soles. Not only did these sandals provide the ability to move about freely, more importantly they provided stability so that the soldiers feet could be planted to withstand the vicious blows of an opponent. These sandals were designed to allow their wearer to stand and withstand an enemy attack without slipping or falling.
- Have you been to shoe store lately? How important is footwear in athletics? Think about all the specialized shoes that are available. Do you want your wide receiver or cornerback falling down on the job due to lack of footing?
- By comparison how important is proper footwear to soldier? A soldier needs to be ready to fight at all times on any terrain. Ask the men at Valley Forge or in the trenches during WWI how important proper footwear was to their success. In battle, particularly ancient battle it was much more difficult defend oneself from the ground.
- The expression “feet shod with the preparation” indicates that we are be prepared i.e., to have these sandals on at all times. Consider the following interesting comparisons:
 - Exodus 12:11—Israel was instructed to eat the Passover with their sandals on. They were to ready to go when the time came. Have you ever waited for someone while to put their shoes on?
 - Deuteronomy 29:5—during the 40 years of wondering in wilderness Israel’s shoes never wore out.

- Ephesians 6:15—our feet are to be shod with the “preparation of the gospel of peace.” This is the only time the Greek word translated “preparation” occurs in the New Testament. The primary meaning of the English word “preparation” means, 1) The act or operation of preparing or fitting for a particular purpose, use, service or condition; as the preparation of land for a crop of wheat; the preparation of troops for a campaign; the preparation of a nation for war; the preparation of men for future happiness. Preparation is intended to prevent evil or secure good.
- Just as a Roman soldier’s sandals provide him a good foundation for fighting against physical enemies, Paul tells us to have our feet shod with gospel of peace so that we can stand and withstand against the wiles of the devil. What then is “the gospel of peace” in verse 15.
- Romans 10:15—many have tried to connect Eph. 6:15 with Rom. 10:15 because of the similar phraseology. The subject in Eph. 6 is not evangelism but the armor of God and the believer’s warfare with the adversary.
- There are two types of peace that would fortify the believer against Satan’s attacks.
 - Peace with God—Romans 5:1
 - Peace of God—Philippians 4:7
- Imagine what kind of soldier you could be if you functioned in light of this dual reality. Consider the illustration of David.
 - I Samuel 16:1, 12-13—David knew from an early age that was going to be king of Israel. Therefore, what did David know in every battle he entered until he became king?
 - I Samuel 18:7-8—as long as Saul was still king David could be fearless in battle because he knew God had promised that he would one day be king over Israel.
- Between “Peace With God” and the “Peace of God” which one does the believer always possess? As believers we always possess “Peace With God.” While the “Peace of God” is always available through prayer and supplication we often allow ourselves to become full of worry and care and it is not until we pray and think about the correct things that peace of God keeps our hearts and minds.
- Ephesians 6:15—therefore, in terms of armor and offering you and I protection I submit to you that “the gospel of peace” in this verse deals with the fact that as believers we have “Peace With God.”
- The sandals of peace deal with being grounded and established in the truth of what God is doing today during the dispensation of Grace.

- Romans 1:11—Paul desired to God to Rome so that he could establish the believers there. “Established” in these verse means to make stable, place firmly, or to set fast. What was the purpose of the sandals wore by Roman soldiers? To established a firm footing when they were under attack.
- Romans 16:25—the word translated “stablish” here is the same Greek word translated “established” in Rom. 1:11. Paul ends the book where he started by telling them what is going to ground them and help them gain a sound footing in the faith: 1) My gospel, 2) the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the mystery, 3) the scriptures of the prophets.
- The “gospel of peace” is simply the good news about peace. Paul has much to say about this in his epistles.
- Romans 5:1—because we have already been justified and given the very righteousness of God we have peace with God as a present possession. As we learned last Sunday when we studied the Breastplate of righteousness the offended justice of God was stratified by the sacrifice of Christ.
- Romans 5:9—when we trust the shed blood of Jesus Christ as the only total payment for our sins we are justified by faith and given peace with God (verse 1).
- Romans 5:10—before we trusted the shed blood of Christ we were God’s enemy. This is the opposite of peace. Notice who is reconciled to God and no longer God’s enemy? Those who have been justified and had God’s righteousness imputed to their account. People who have been reconciled to God are therefore at peace with God because that is the fundamental definition of reconciliation the act of setting a peace two parities who used to be at enmity with each other.
- The “gospel of peace” is the message of the great dispensational change God has now ushered in. The “time past” situation, of Israel being “nigh” to God and us Gentiles being “far off,” is no longer the case.
- Ephesians 2:13—by the blood of Christ the Gentile who were far off in “time past” are brought nigh unto God.
- Ephesians 2:14—Christ is our peace. It was the crosswork of Christ that made us nigh inverse 13 and broke down the middle wall of partition that divided Jew and Gentile in verse 14.
 - Christ is the truth (belt of truth)—John 14:6
 - Christ is our righteousness (breastplate of righteousness)—I Corinthians 1:30
 - Christ is our peace (sandals of peace)—Ephesians 2:14
- Ephesians 2:15—the former enmity that existed between Jew and Gentiles has been taken out of the way and has been replaced with peace as God is now forming the one new man the church the body of Christ.

- Ephesians 2:16—once again because of the crosswork of Christ God is able to reconcile both Jew and Gentile unto himself in one body by the cross. The former enmity has been replaced with peace.
- Ephesians 2:17-18—God is now preaching a message of grace and peace to the entire world without distinction.
- Colossians 1:20—peace has been made through the blood of his cross which allows God to reconcile all the positions of governmental authority in heaven and earth back under his authority.
- Paul begins every epistle addressed to the churches with a declaration of God’s attitude towards the world today: Grace and Peace
 - Romans 1:7—“Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.”
 - I Corinthians 1:3—“Grace be unto you, and peace. . .”
 - II Corinthians 1:2—“Grace be to you and peace. . .”
 - Galatians 1:3—“Grace be to you and peace. . .”
 - Ephesians 1:2—“Grace be to you, and peace. . .”
 - Philippians 1:2—“Grace be unto you, an peace. . .”
 - Colossians 1:2—“Grace be unto you, and peace. . .”
 - I Thessalonians 1:1—“Grace be unto you, and peace. . .”
 - II Thessalonians 1:2—“Grace be unto you, and peace. . .”
- Ephesians 6:15—our feet are to be shod and grounded with the preparation of the truth of what God is doing during this dispensation of Grace. God is forming a new man i.e., the body of Christ by reconciling both Jew and Gentile unto himself by the blood of his cross. Anyone who believes that Christ died on the cross and shed his blood for their sin is justified and given peace with God.
- Christ is our peace we need to make our stand and build our defense against the enemy behind these great truths. Only then will our feet be shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.