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**Ephesians 6:10-18 (NIV)** - 10Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, **15and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.** 16In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

## THIS WEEK: THE SHOES OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE

### FEET FITTED: SHOES

- What are shoes for?
  - To protect and provide for the foot
  - To make a fashion statement?
- How do they protect and provide the feet as a part of the full set of armor?
  - They protect from the elements
  - They protect from attack
  - They provide comfort
  - They provide support
  - They provide ability
  - They provide opportunity
  - They make a fashion statement?
- What kind of shoes were worn in battle and why?

**Caligae:** A heavy military sandal. More of a half boot, half sandal. These sandals were the sign of an equipped soldier and one ready to move. The openness of the caligae enabled the soldier to wear them all day. They could march, work, or stand in them for hours without any discomfort. It was common that soldiers would march 25 miles. Their feet might hurt, but they would have no blisters. Then attached to bottom of the caligae – thick hobnails, sharp studs. Not only would they protect the soldier's feet over rough ground, they enabled him to use them in battle to stomp on fallen enemies. As you can imagine, a soldier's shoes formed a firm foundation for his military weapons and equipment. Soldiers needed firm footing in order to concentrate on the battle at hand. (C. Batchelder)

What kind of shoes are we to wear? Shoes of the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace!

## THE GOSPEL OF PEACE

**Ephesians 2:13-17 (NIV)** - 13But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, 15by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. **His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, 16and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. 17He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.**

- We are to have feet fitted with **peace** that only the gospel brings
- Peace is defined as wholeness, wellness, restoration, completeness (Greek: eirene, Hebrew: shalom)
- Peace is to be our firm footing
- We are to stand on peace in the battle – peace protects
- We are to march and work in peace – peace provides
- We are to stomp our enemies with... peace?
- What does the enemy attack to shake our firm stance and knock us down? **Our peace.**
- Do you look at the gospel of peace like a fashion statement or a necessary ingredient to standing in life?

What allows us to fight the good fight and **be prepared and ready** in all seasons? **The peace of the gospel.**

## PREPARED AND READY FOR THE ATTACK(S)

- Standing firm and walking in the peace of the gospel allows us to fight the good fight.
- **When we don't** stand and walk in peace we are not ready for the attacks of the enemy – lies and tries.
- **What attacks your footing of peace? What causes you to slip?**
- Sometimes the best defense is a good offense. We are to be prepared to **stand firmly – against the attacks** and we are to **go firmly – on the attack!**

**Isaiah 52:7 (NIV)** - 7How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, “Your God reigns!”

**Nahum 1:15 (NIV)** - 15Look to the mountains – the feet of one bringing good news and proclaiming peace! Celebrate your festivals, Judah; fulfill your vows. For the wicked one will never again march through you; he will be entirely wiped out.

**Romans 10:11-14 (NIV)** - 14How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

- We are to bring the good news (gospel) and peace to others!
- We are to proclaim salvation in Jesus! That our God reigns!
- We are to celebrate and bring good tidings! God loves to party!
- We are to have hope and belief that IN US the wicked one will NO LONGER MARCH – HE IS WIPED OUT!
- Some of us are losing the battle because we are waiting to get attacked and not going on the attack.
- Some of us walk out our faith like a fashion statement – looks good, but serves no real purpose in life!
- We are to have beautiful feet fitted with the readiness of the gospel of peace!

## NEXT WEEK: THE SHIELD OF FAITH

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What stood out to you from this message on peace? Why?
- What is the most personally challenging part of this message? Share.
- How does God's part, our part and other's part play into this message?
- What is one next step you can take from this message?
- To watch the Overtime Podcast, go to: <https://bit.ly/RLOvertime>



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