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"Shoes of the Gospel of Peace"

1. THE REAL WAR

Don't Be Deceived

- We are *not* living in peace time, but wartime
- We have a real enemy
- We have corruption within, which makes us vulnerable
- We live in a corrupt world ruled behind the scenes by the god of this world
- We need not be afraid - He promises God is with us, and He's given us everything we need

Ephesians 6:10-14 (ESV) Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil 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 firm. 14 Stand therefore...

A Package Deal

- All equipment required

2. PEACE IN THE WAR

Ephesians 6:15 (ESV) and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.

Being Ready is Being Responsive

- Once dead, but now alive (Ephesians 2:1-5)
- Once blind, but now can see (John 9:25)
- Once lost, but now found (Luke 15:24)
- P.E.A.R.L.

Responsive To The Gospel

- The Good News
- The Bad News
- Then Great News

Being Ready is Having Your Shoes On

- Stand firm against the schemes of the enemy (vs 11)

What are the schemes of the enemy?

2 Corinthians 2:11 (NIV) [let's make sure we do everything necessary here]11 in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

- Opposite of standing is getting knocked down, knocked out
- Stand firm in the Gospel of Peace

Being Ready Is To Allow The Gospel of Peace To Rule & Reign

- Peace - everyone wants it, but everyone has a different *definition of what it is*.
- Peace - everyone wants it, but everyone has a different *idea of how to get it*.

Defining "Peace" - What is it?

- **Biblical definition of peace:** wholeness, completeness, & restoration of God's design

Obtaining “Peace” - How do we get it?

- Jesus came to bring peace, but perhaps not how you might think about peace.

John 14:27 (ESV) Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

John 16:33 (ESV) I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

With the enemy’s schemes in view, how do you apply the Gospel of Peace in all areas of your life?

Colossians 3:15 (ESV) And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, . . .

- It’s not that there is no stress, fears, & struggles as Christians - we are human after all!
- It’s that the *greater law* of the Gospel of Peace supersedes the struggles in this world

Romans 8:1-2 (ESV) There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

Romans 8:31-39 (ESV) 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 gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? 33 Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36 As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Small Group Discussion Questions:

1. Consider doing a word study on the Hebrew word for “peace” (shâlôm) and the Greek word for “peace” (eirēnē). How broadly are the words used? How does the Bible use the word “peace” differ from how our American culture does?
2. What truths are you needing to meditate on, stand firm on, in following Jesus’ example when He said, “It is written...”?
3. How would you define “peace” left to yourself? How does your definition of peace compare to what Jesus modeled?
4. Is there a broken way of obtaining a false “peace” that you find yourself doing? What might repentance look like in this area of your life and relationships?
5. Where in your life are you needing to practice “putting on the Gospel of Peace”? What kind of conversation do you need to have with the Lord?
6. Are there schemes of the devil that are taking ground, continuing to take root in spreading infection? If so, what and how? Bring them into the light in community with trustworthy believers for support.



Sample Small Group Questions
<https://bit.ly/GroupDiscussionQuestions>



The Overtime Podcast
bit.ly/RL/Overtime



Series Resources
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