

The Shoes Of The Gospel Of Peace

“And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace” (Eph. 6:15).

Due to the war in Iraq, a lot of changes have been made in the equipment that our servicemen wear. Of course, the goal is to provide top-of-the-line gear for their present assignment. All the equipment is a little lighter and little more field-friendly. The Army combat boots, for instance, need no polish and are suited for hot weather. The soldiers say that they are easier to break in and are more becoming to the desert region than regular boots.

The shoes of the Roman soldier were basically boot-like sandals that were attached above the ankles with leather straps. Hobnails, studs made of short nails, something like our modern cleats, were attached to the thick soles of the shoes to give the soldier stability and a good foothold. The shoes must not only fit the soldiers' feet but endure the enemies' traps aimed at maiming them. If one's feet were uncomfortable or damaged, his ability to stand and fight was limited.

As we think about these verses, what was said to the children of Israel when they were leaving Egypt is of great interest. Although the people were going on a journey, not to war, Moses told them to travel “with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand” (Exo. 12:11). As sojourners on a long, treacherous pilgrimage, or soldiers in a raging battle, all believers must have the gospel shoes on their feet.

Wearing the gospel shoes provides readiness! The word “preparation” basically means “preparedness, or readiness,” and indicates that the only way we are truly prepared or made ready for the battle is by and through the gospel. When our feet are shod with the gospel, the good news of the Lord Jesus, we can stand confidently in the redemptive work He has wrought. No matter how fierce the conflict, we can stand without fear of falling.

Wearing the gospel shoes promotes remembrance! The gospel is referred to here as “the gospel of peace.” In what way is it a gospel of peace? We must remember that in times past we were the enemies of God. But the Lord Jesus, dying in our stead, “made peace through the blood of His cross” (Col. 1:20). Too, let us recall that “being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom. 5:1).

Wearing the gospel shoes promises results! The gospel of the Lord Jesus is not mere religious rhetoric; it is the power of God! It is true that we are up against a powerful enemy who would hinder any progress in spiritual matters. Ah, but Satan and all his forces cannot withstand the power of the Gospel. As we wage war with the enemy, therefore, let us be sure that our feet are “shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.”