

THE ARMOR OF GOD

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS WITH PASTOR JACK ABELEN

Knowing our Adversary and the Armor of God Week 6: Ephesians 6:15 - Shoes for My Feet

Introduction

- A. In our first three weeks we looked at knowing our adversary -- who Satan is and what he does, his plans for those lost in the world, and his strategy against the saints of God.
- B. During our fourth and fifth weeks we focused on the armor of God -- the belt of truth and the breastplate of righteousness, what they are and what they mean to us in terms of our protection in the battle.
- C. Tonight we will look at the third piece of armor to be worn at all times, along with the belt and the breastplate, the shoes for our feet. After we finish with the shoes, the next three pieces of armor were not designed to be constantly worn but rather kept by and quickly picked up when needed. But the shoes were always to be worn.
- D. It has always been important that our feet are protected, in our day and in Roman times. Even though there is the practice of wearing shoes for fashion without functional considerations, shoes ultimately provide for our protection and give us stability.
- E. Spiritually, this piece of armor and the sure footing it provides gives greater meaning and emphasis to Paul's words to stand, withstand, and having done all, to stand (6:11,13,14a).
- F. Terms (Eph.6:15):
 1. Shod your feet: (hupodeo in Greek) to bind under, encase, or envelop within
 2. Preparation: to be equipped
 3. Gospel: the good news of Jesus Christ
 4. Peace: rest. In our study tonight, the word peace is applied in three ways for the saints. When we are saved we are given peace with God. As we learn of Him we find the peace of God, and as a result of His love in us, we can have true peace with others.
 5. This verse is not designed to speak of evangelism as some have sought to make it. Instead, in the context, it speaks to us as God's people about the armor He provides to keep us from succumbing to the wiles of the enemy.

Peace with God and the Peace of God

- A. (Rom.5:6-11) Paul speaks of what we were and where we were before Jesus came into our lives. We were weak and ungodly, unrighteous and not good, sinners and the objects of God's wrath, and enemies of God at war with Him.
- B. Yet when Jesus came into our lives, He made peace for us with God through His blood (Col.1:20). I now become His child, purchased and adopted into His family. The war has ceased (2Co.5:19).
- C. (Php.4:6-9) As I learn of Him, another peace fills my heart, the peace of God. Knowing Him allows me to live that way, resting in His care, power, provision, and promise. "Don't worry, be happy" works for the saints.
- D. It is a supernatural peace found in the knowledge of God and fellowship with Jesus Christ and it will keep my heart and mind in the battles I face with the enemy of my soul (Rom.8:28).
- E. Peace with God is immediate; the peace of God fills my heart as a process of sanctification.

Peace with Others

- A. Unique to the saints who have been delivered from the old nature of selfishness and self-centeredness, peace with others is possible because of the new heart I have and the love of God placed in my heart by the Holy Spirit. (Php.2:2-4)(Rom.12:18).
- B. The enemy seeks to use others to trip up my walk. How glorious to love them and die to self and not be moved by others. It is His love for us that allows us to love others, even those who are anything but loveable (Jam.2:13)(1Pe.4:8).

Concluding Thoughts

- A. Jesus is my sure footing as I stand against the enemy (Ps.40:2)(Ps.18:29-38).0
- B. It is quite a contrast from those in the world (Ps.73:18). For me, even if I stumble, my God upholds me (Ps.37:23-24).
- C. I am anchored and immovable in Him (1Jn.5:18).
- D. Both Peter's actions in the garden (Jn.18) and Gideon's dilemma with his reduced army (Judg.7) address this issue of standing on solid ground based on knowing God. Peter was learning; Gideon had learned the lesson well.
- E. Peace with God: (Rom.5:1)(Lk.2:14)(Rom.8:6)(Isa.53:5).
- F. Peace of God: (Php.4:6-7)(Jn.20:19)(Isa.48:18)(Jn.14:27)
- G. Peace with others: (Col.3:13-15)(Gal.5:22)(Rom.14:17)(Pro.16:7).
- H. May we with the psalmist declare that we have great peace, nothing causes us to stumble (Ps.119:165).
- I. Next week we will look at the shield of faith.