



Lesson Seven

**The Shoes of the Preparation of the
Gospel of Peace.**

Ephesians 6:15

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Text: Ephesians 6:15

Details concerning the Shoe

Comparison between Peace the Fruit of the Spirit and Peace the Armour of God.

Introduction: The peace of God equips us for spiritual warfare.

Story: Neville Chamberlain 'Peace for our Time'

The peace of God is not appeasement with the enemy.

1. Shoes provide firm footing when the devil attacks us in regard to our relationship with God.
2. Shoes provide firm footing when the devil attacks us in regard to our relationship with one another in the body of Christ.
11. Shoes are well suited for long marches through difficult places. Well suited for walking through difficult trials and afflictions.
12. Shoes must be kept on ready for any attack of the enemy

Details concerning the Shoe:

- Comfortable - shaped as the human foot. Not made for show; had a straight inner edge.
- Protected the foot
- Good for marching – consider Roman Roads
- Easily put on - Readiness
- Fitted with nails or studs for firmness



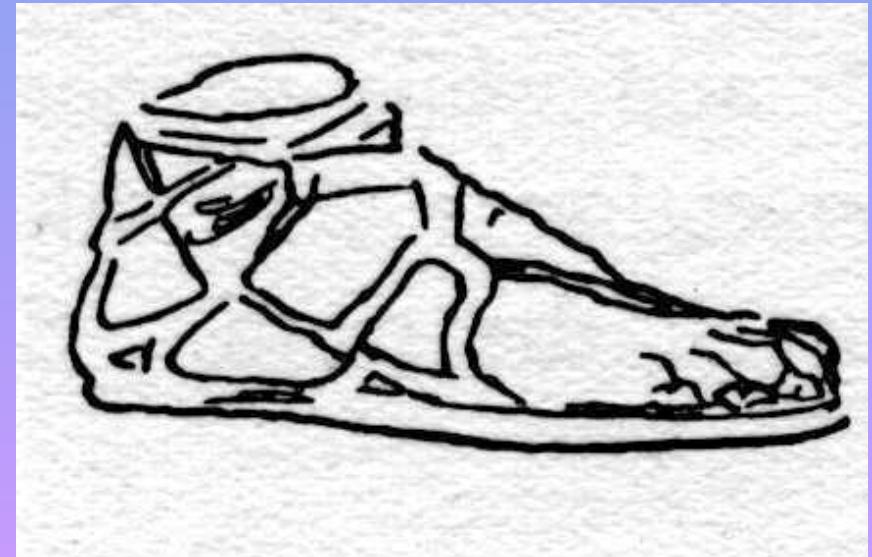
PROTECTION – FIRMNESS - COMFORT

The Roman soldier's sandal gave protection to the feet;
firm grip on the ground; and
made it easy to move.

Feet can easily slide without firm footing.

Nails or studs under the sole to keep the grip.

Sandal shaped so that it was comfortable for the foot.



Introduction:

Comparison between the Armour of God and the Fruit of the Spirit.

- Peace as the Fruit of the Spirit - emphasis upon the life of Christ in the believer producing fruit in our lives. The fruit of peace is seen as we allow Christ to live His life in us.
- Peace as the Armour of God - emphasis is upon standing against the schemes of the devil. The enemy comes to make us slide. The shoes mean we are standing firm in the knowledge of who we are in Christ.

Peace not Appeasement

The peace of God is not appeasement with the enemy.

Those who seek peace with an aggressive enemy are easily deceived.

'Peace for our time'

After Germany invaded Czechoslovakia in 1938, the British Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain (1869 – 1940), tried to adopt a policy of appeasement with Germany.

Neville Chamberlain went to Munich and met with Adolf Hitler. He came back waving a piece of paper and said

'I believe it is peace for our time'

The next year Germany moved into Poland and Britain declared war on Germany.

Neville Chamberlain died of cancer soon after resigning as Prime Minister in 1940.



Peace and truth must go hand in hand.

Xerxes (485 – 465 BC)

Also called Ahasuerus

King who married Esther.

'And he sent the letters unto all the Jews, to the hundred twenty and seven provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, *with* words of peace and truth,'
(Esther 9:30)

Coin of Xerxes (Ahasuerus)



Standing Firm

The shoes enable us to stand firm. It means standing firm on Christ, He is our peace (Ephesians 2:14).

The wrong shoes will provide no grip on the ground.

The world's peace is the wrong shoes for spiritual warfare.

Christians who wear the wrong shoes of ‘peace without truth’ can easily become discouraged and are soon defeated.

Only the ‘Gospel of Peace’ provides a firm footing against the schemes of the devil.

Christians who seek appeasement above truth are not equipped for spiritual warfare.

The devil is going round like a roaring lion seeking who he can devour.

We must have the right shoes to be firm footed.

We must stand firm on Christ

1. The Gospel of Peace provides firm footing when the devil attacks us in regard to our relationship with God.

Standing firm in 'Full assurance of faith' (Hebrews 10:22)

Knowing who we are in Christ.

Question: What are you trusting in?

How good a life you are living? or Christ alone for salvation?

If we trust in ourselves we will slide

We must trust in Christ alone.

Faroe Islands – wrong shoes

When walking up a mountain in the Faroe Islands my feet kept on slipping because I was wearing the wrong shoes. I was wearing trainers.

Whenever there were loose stones my feet would slide. It was difficult to keep my footing. In some places it could be dangerous and I had to work hard just to keep upright.

The next time I went walking in the mountains I wore walking boots. My feet did not slip and I was able to move without fear of sliding.

The right shoes made all the difference.



Standing firm on the finished work of Christ and not our own works.

By grace alone through faith in Christ (Ephesians 2:8).

It is not by works but by faith that we are:

Reconciled (2 Corinthians 5:18). We have been reconciled to God through Christ, and we are ambassadors with the message of reconciliation.

Justified (Romans 5:1). We are justified by faith in Christ alone. There is no condemnation because in Christ we have become a new creation.

Accepted (Ephesians 1:6). We can approach God with boldness because we are accepted in Christ

Adopted (Romans 8:15). We have been adopted into the family of God.

Standing firm - the servant of righteousness

Standing firm because we have been brought out of darkness into the kingdom of the Son of God. Colossians 1:13 'Who has delivered us from the power of darkness, and has translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son:'

Standing firm because we are no longer slaves of the devil. We have been set free to be the servants of righteousness. Romans 6:17-18, 'But God be thanked, that you were the servants of sin, but you have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, you became the servants of righteousness.'

Standing firm in the faith resisting the devil. We have the power to resist the devil in every trial and temptation. 1 Peter 5:9 'Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.'

2. The shoes provide firm footing against the attacks of the devil when he seeks to destroy our relationship with one another in the body of Christ.
He is our peace. (Ephesians 2:14)

Stand Fast – The Devil wars against the church by causing divisions of race; social standing; and gender.

All barriers have been removed in Christ.

There is one body in Christ

Only requirement - you must be a new creation in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17).

(Galatians 3:28) 'There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for you are all one in Christ Jesus.'

Racial – Jew or Gentile

No racial barriers, 'There is neither Jew nor Greek...' There is no place for racial prejudice within the body of Christ. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile. There is no difference between nationalities - we are one body.

Social – Rich and Poor, Master or Servant.

No social barriers. There is no place for social prejudice between rich and poor, '.there is neither bond nor free'. Every member of the body of Christ is needed, 1 Corinthians 12.

Gender – Male and Female.

No place for prejudice between men and women. Men and women are of equal importance within the body of Christ. Men and women have different roles but there is no difference in status within the body of Christ. All are one in Christ Jesus.

The shoes enable us to stand against the devil when he seeks to divide the body of Christ. The God of peace will overcome the devil's schemes.

Stand Fast – The Devil wars against the church through self seeking leaders and preachers who cause division by good words and fair speeches.

‘Now I beseech you, brethren, **mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned;** and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple. For your obedience is come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil. **And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly.** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.’ (Romans 16:17-20)

Stand Fast – Doing all things with love

1 Corinthians 16:13-14 ‘Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. Let all your things be done with love.’

Sand Fast – serving one another Galatians 5:13

The Gospel of peace sets us free to serve one another.

Galatians 5:13 ‘For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.’

Stand Fast – working together, 1 Corinthians 3:9a.

‘We are labourers together with God’

The body of Christ is not hierarchical or competitive, 1 Corinthians 13. The devil seeks to divide the body of Christ through competitiveness and pride.

3. The Gospel of peace provides firm footing against the attacks of the devil in our daily lives.

Shoes of the Roman soldier were well suited for long marches through difficult places.

The armour of God is well suited for walking through difficult trials and afflictions.

We have the power to resist the devil in every trial and temptation. 1 Peter 5:9 'Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.'

Resisting the devil by standing firm in the faith.

Stedfast in the knowledge of Romans 8:31-39

There is no ‘created thing that can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.’

Standing Fast against temptations

1 Corinthians 10:13 ‘There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.’

Confidence in the face of temptation.

We are able to stand in the face of all temptations because the Lord will not allow his people to be tempted beyond that which they are able to resist.

Standing fast in the knowledge of Romans 8:31-39

‘We are more than conquerors through Christ who strengthens us’. Romans 8:37.

There is no ‘created thing that can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.’ Romans 8:39.

4. The shoes of the preparation of the Gospel of peace.

Prepared means readiness, ‘the preparation of the Gospel of peace’ (Ephesians 6:15).

The Christian must be prepared at all times against the attacks of the devil in our daily lives.

We must be equipped with the shoes of the Gospel of peace.

If our feet are not firm then the enemy will be able to pull us down because we are not ready for his attacks.

How do we keep ourselves in a state of readiness?

1) By being filled with the word of God.

Colossians 3:16 'Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.'

2) By prayer

The peace of God will guard and keep us. Philippians 4:6-7 'Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.'

The peace of God will keep our hearts and minds.

Stress will cause heart attacks and mental breakdowns, but the armour of God will keep us from the attacks of the enemy.

The peace of God is sufficient for us to be at peace in all circumstances.

Anxiety in believers is evidence that he or she has not learnt to put on the armour of God against the attacks of the enemy. Isaiah 26:3, 'Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusts in You.'

Standing Firm even in the severest trials

The Shoes of the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace give firmness in the face of death.

Perfect peace even in the face of death.

Peter slept in the face of death in prison, Acts 12:6.

John Wesley said that even the enemies had to agree ‘We Christians die well’.

John Wesley’s dying words were ‘The best of all is, God is with us’.

D.L.Moody said on the day of his death ‘This is my coronation day’.

Summary:

We can only be ready for the attacks of the enemy if our feet are prepared with the Gospel of peace. The shoes in the armour of God do not provide room for appeasement with the enemy. The shoes provide firm footing in all situations and circumstance.

1. The enemy seeks to attack our assurance of salvation. The Gospel of peace enables us to stand firm in regard to our salvation because we know that we have peace with God through the Lord Jesus Christ. Our faith must be in the finished work of Christ alone.
2. The enemy seeks to attack our relationship with one another in the body of Christ, our feet must be protected by the Gospel of peace. All barriers have been broken down in Christ. The shoes will keep us when the enemy seeks to divide the body of Christ
3. The gospel of peace is well suited for walking through difficult trials and afflictions.
4. The Christian must be prepared at all times against the attacks of the devil in our daily lives. The Christian must always be ready to face the attacks of the enemy.