

Remnant Life Church
Sunday, February 24, 2013

“Everyday Armor
Part 3 – Firm Footing”
Ephesians 6:15

- It might seem that this is a strange item to include in the armor
 - How important can shoes be to the soldier?
 - How does this apply to my spiritual battles?

- Facts about shoes
 1. We have been wearing shoes for several thousand years
 2. First ones were wrapped animal skin
 3. Shoes used to be identical until the 1800s when the first left and right shoes were manufactured in Philadelphia
 4. The first shoes with heels were produced in the Middle East to elevate the foot from the hot sand
 5. In European upper-class society of the 1600s 6 inch heels were worn requiring a servant on both sides to help steady the wearer
 6. The first women’s boot was designed for Queen Victoria in 1840
 7. Sneakers were first made in American in 1916 – called keds
 8. Most money paid – Judy Garland’s ruby slippers - \$665K in 2K
 9. Largest – size 42 – for a man in Florida said to be a giant named Harley Davidson
 10. Average woman owns 30-50 pairs of shoes; the average man – 12-15
 11. Imelda Marcos – 3000+

For the Roman soldier the shoe was a very important piece of equipment

- Called a caliga
 - Soldiers wearing the caliga -- i.e., the ordinary soldiers -- were known as caligati. Germanicus (Caesar at the time of Jesus’ birth the son of Nero) put the caliga on one of his young sons when they were among the soldiers. As a result, the boy was called "little boots," a name he kept when became the emperor Caligula
- It protected his foot when marching – 20 – 50 mile marches
- It gave him traction and aided in his balance when fighting
- Protected the feet from buried booby-traps
 - The greatest and most powerful warrior would be rendered incapacitated with injured feet

- Could be used as a weapon
 - Metal studs and sometimes short spikes were placed on the bottom
 - Could kick in close combat

Ephesians 6:15 - ...and with your feet fitted with the preparation of the gospel of peace.

1. **Preparation** – in the original Greek - **Hetoimasia** – (Het toy-mah SEE ya)
 - a. Preparation in the active sense of getting ready
 - b. A state of readiness both internal and external
 - i. In the Septuagint (the original Greek translation of the OT) the word is used to describe a prepared foundation or base
 1. Ezra 2:68; 3:3
 2. Psalm 89:14
 3. Zechariah 5:11
 - ii. The ready state was also in regard to the footing and stability of the soldier
 - iii. We also see the connection to Isaiah 52:7 that undoubtedly Paul is referencing
 1. **Isaiah 52:7** - *How 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!"*
 - c. We are not only getting ready physically but the word is also used as preparedness which is the state of mind of the one who is ready
2. **Of**
 - a. The first “of the Gospel” tells us that the origin or condition of our being ready comes from the good news (“gospel”) of Christ
 - i. Importance of knowing the Gospel
 - ii. Paul writes in I Corinthians that it is simple for everyone to know
 - iii. There are great depths that must be continually examined through our lives
 - b. The second “the Gospel of Peace” is the result of knowing Christ – it gives or brings peace
3. The full, paraphrased statement of the verse then is-
 - a. The preparedness of our spirit coming from the possession of the Gospel which sheds a calm over us and brings us into peace with God

- b. This is what Paul saw in the spiked shoes of the soldier enabling him, like us, to stand firm and ready to face whatever came against him.

4. Peace

- a. In the midst of the battle the Gospel brings peace

- i. Peace with power

1. **Math 10:34** - *"Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword."*
 2. Jesus reminds His disciples that the life of a disciple will not be one without a battle
 3. Peace does not mean weakness

- ii. Peace with assurance

1. **eirene** (ear-ray-nay) – joining together
 2. "Satan would bring doubt and rebellion and death, but the whole gospel, from creation to redemption to consummation, brings assurance and peace and life."
- Henry Morris; Scholar and Author
 3. Peace contrasts with strife meaning the absence of strife in your life
 4. **Isaiah 32:17** - *The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever.*

- iii. Peace with victory to stand

1. The shoes are not for retreat
 2. **Ephesians 6:13** - *Therefore 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**.*
 3. The shoes of peace are for standing firm in the face of the battle while living in the absence of conflict
- The presence of God in your life should be one of more peace than strife

The belt, the breastplate and the shoes are all designed to ready you for what the enemy brings. These also prepare you to go on the offensive.