

## ***The Soldier's Shoes***

September 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016

### ***Ephesians 6:10-15***

*"... Put on the whole armor of God ..."*

We need every piece to experience victory in battle!

Spiritual War requires Spiritual Battle Gear!

### **The Shoes of the Roman Soldiers**

The Roman soldier needed excellent footwear to both travel long distances and to have firm footing when engaging in combat. The shoes of the Roman soldier were called *caliga* which were made of strong leather and soled with thickly studded hob-nails (iron nails which covered the entire sole) for good grip. The Roman soldier would be able to move quickly with firm footing when engaging in battle! <sup>1</sup>

### **The Shoes of the Christian Soldiers**

❖ The Christian Soldier puts on "readiness" as the shoes needed for the spiritual battle!

"Despite a clear allusion to Is. 52:7, Paul does not have in mind the barefooted messenger who takes the gospel to others. The image here is of the Roman soldier's sturdy sandals, which gave him stability and protection in battle. Ironically, the peace that comes from the gospel readies one for war against evil."<sup>(emphasis added)</sup> <sup>2</sup>

### The Gospel of Peace

❖ Gospel means good and joyful news

❖ The Gospel is the history of Christ given to us in the entire Word of God!

*1 Peter 1:20 "[Jesus] was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you"*

*Genesis 3:15 "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."*

*Genesis 12:3 "...in you [Abraham] all the families of the earth will be blessed."*

*Isaiah 9:6 "...and His name shall be called ... Prince of Peace..."*

❖ The Gospel is the gospel of the kingdom!

*Matthew 24:14 "And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."*

*Mark 1:14-15 "Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.'"*

- ❖ The peace we receive from knowing the gospel frees us from distractions such as anxiety, fear, apprehension, insecurity, and doubt that would make us vulnerable against our adversary.

*Romans 5:1 "Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

"Readiness" is to be put on as shoes for your feet.

- ❖ "Readiness" means to be prepared, on point, with no delay or hesitation.

*2 Timothy 4:2 "...be ready in season and out of season..."*

- ❖ Readiness requires repentance and surrender!

*2 Timothy 2:21 "Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work."*

- ❖ Readiness involves full commitment and focus!

*1 Corinthians 9:23 "I do it all for the sake of the gospel..."*

*1 Corinthians 9:24-27 "... Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. ..."*

Ä "I do not run aimlessly" ⇒ We have direction and purpose!

Ä "I do not box as one beating the air" ⇒ We are not simply going through the motions!

Ä "I discipline my body and keep it under control" ⇒ We are serious about pleasing God with our lives!

*Philippians 1:27 "Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ..."*

- 1 Peter 5:8-11

Endnotes:

<sup>1</sup> Information from: Alchin, Linda. "Roman Shoes." *Tribunes and Triumphs*. SiteSeen Ltd, Mar. 2015. <http://www.tribunesandtriumphs.org/roman-clothing/roman-shoes.htm>. Web.

<sup>2</sup> Sproul, R.C. *The Reformation Study Bible*. Orlando: Ligonier Ministries, 2005.

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