

Christian Combat: Equipment Check – War Shoes!

Ephesians 6:15

Pastor Jason Dennett's Notes

NKJV - *"Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace.."*

ESP - *"Estad, pues, firmes, ceñida vuestra cintura con la verdad, revestidos con la coraza de la justicia y calzados los pies con el apresto del evangelio de la paz"*

NLT - *"Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared."*

I. The War Shoes - **HISTORICALLY!**

II. The War Shoes - **BIBLICALLY!**

III. The War Shoes - **PRACTICALLY!**

I. **The War Shoes - HISTORICALLY!**

- Mobility is one of the greatest factors of an army being successful in wartime. How fast they can move, and how well they can move it **VITALLY** important! "Combat readiness" is a fundamental military concept, and is a key element for any standing army to be effective. For example, the key to the success of Caesar's army was the ability of the Roman legions to move great distances, to mobilize quickly, and to sustain that rapid pace on long marches. This is what the US

military refers to as "expeditious mobility".

- **This was also true for the individual Roman soldier** - for him to be able to survive on the snowy forests of Germania or upon the mountain sides of Persia, his war boots were one of his greatest tools.
“Josephus described them as ‘shoes thickly studded with sharp nails’...so as to ensure a good grip. The military successes both of Alexander the Great and of Julius Caesar were due in large measure to their armies’ being well shod and thus able to undertake long marches at incredible speed over rough terrain.”
- Wood
- **MODERN WARFARE is no different than that of Ancient Rome, in this regard.** Throughout modern military history, many would say that far more soldiers have been immobilized by foot problems, than have gone down from enemy bullets.
- **This was certainly true during the conflict in Vietnam in the 60's and 70's.** Early in the Vietnam war, the troops wore normal leather military boot the army had used for years. But it had to change if the army were to survive and emerge victorious against the Vietcong. The normal leather boot of the US military simply couldn't weather those wet, steamy jungles. Eventually the army invented a specially developed, self draining, and self drying "jungle boot" designed for the wet, humid environment of the jungles of South East Asia.
- **Boots have always been what advance the soldier on the battlefield,** carry the soldier to meet the enemy, and ready the soldier for battle! Even today the 21st Century, effective combat boots, that are durable, comfortable, and perform well under battle conditions, are an essential piece of gear for the modern soldier.

II. The War Shoes - *BIBLICALLY!*

- In order to stand in the Christian life – to stand in the middle of the inevitable conflict and struggle that comes and goes as we live for God – we are given essential tools and armor to help us in the fight. These tools are represented by imagery of the Roman soldiers battlefield armor and weapons.
- In this last part of Ephesians 6:14-15 the Apostle Paul relates a particular part of the Roman soldier's equipment – their distinctive sandals. As it connects to the Christian experience, those sandals are like **having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace.**
 - **Isaiah 52:7** - "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

- **What is the "Gospel" ??** As we look at 1 Cor 15:1-4 and cross reference it with Romans 10:9-10 we can see that the New Testament Gospel is composed of 3 primary truths:
 - Jesus is GOD - He is truly God and truly Man, God in flesh.
 - Jesus DIED for all sin - He paid for all of mankind's past, present, future sin.
 - Jesus ROSE physically from the dead - He rose from the grave and lives today.
- **Why is it called the Gospel of "Peace" ??** Once a person believes and received the Gospel, they are no longer at war with God, opposing Him, but are now at peace with Him through the blood of Jesus:
 - **Romans 5:1 AMP** - "THEREFORE, SINCE we are justified (acquitted, declared righteous, and given a right standing with God) through faith, let us [grasp the fact that we] have [the peace of reconciliation to hold and to enjoy] peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One)."

III. The War Shoes - **PRACTICALLY!**

- **#1 - Be **FIRM**-footed in the Gospel!**

The Gospel provides the "spiritual footing" for everything we do. Notice, the **preparation of the gospel** is represented as these protective war boots (or sandals) worn by Roman soldiers. No Christian can fight effectively or properly go about their business without this equipment. However powerful the rest of your body is, if you are wounded in your feet you are easy prey for the enemy!

 - But as a Christian, you can stand fast in the faith, knowing you've embraced the Gospel, and are now at **PEACE** with God!
 - Rom 5:1
 - Rom 5:9
 - 1 John 5:13
- **#2 - Be **FAST**-footed with the Gospel!**
 - Be ready and **PREPARED** to share the Gospel with anyone the Lord directs you to.
 - The idea of preparation is really readiness. We must be mobile, flexible, and ready with the truth. This is a place to have in the Christian life, to live in constant readiness and flexibility.
 - *"We have the lessons before us over and over again - nations*

- *that were not ready and were unable to get ready, were eventually overrun by the enemy." - FD Roosevelt*
- *"In a time of War, opportunity waits for no man." - Pericles*
- *"To win a battle quickly, takes long preparation!" - Latin Proverb*
- *"To be prepared for war is one of the most effective ways of preserving peace." - George Washington*
- *"The best welfare for the troops is good training." - Erwin Rommel*
- *"Proper Prior Practice Prevents Possible Poor Performance." - 7 P's of Warfare*
- *"Excellence doesn't happen by accident. It takes teamwork, consistency, dedication, and preparation." - Christopher Lewis*
- *"The will to win, means nothing without the will to prepare." - Juma Ikangaa, Olympic Champion*
- *"What we often call luck, is when preparation meets opportunity." - Sterling Sill*
- *"Luck comes to those who are the best prepared. For how shall one catch the fish without first a hook or a net? So gather your bait, and let your hook always be cast: for in the stream, when you least expect it, there will be a fish!" - Asian Proverb*
- *"He who desires victory, should spare no pains to prepare his soldiers. He who desires peace, therefore, should prepare for war!" - George Washington*
- *"Wars may be fought with weapons, but they are won by soldiers!" - General George Patton*
- Don't miss the point – without having the gospel as your constant foundation, as much as a soldier constantly has his boots – you aren't prepared. You are an easy target. Never let go of the **preparation of the gospel of peace.**
- **1 Pet 3:15**
- **Rom 1:16**

Acts 1:8