

**"The Practice of the Believer"**

**Ephesians 4-6**

**Part 31**

**Introduction:** Today as we return to our study in Ephesians we are again coming back to the Armour of God. Before we get back to the armour, I want to go back to the battle we are in for a moment. I spoke with someone this past week who shared some interesting thoughts with me concerning the battle. What is the battle that we are in? We know that this battle is a spiritual battle, but we must ask, "What is it all about?"

**Notice Ephesians 6:11-12**

Here we see that our battle is spiritual. Now let us see what this battle is all about.

**Mark 16:15**

<sup>15</sup> *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*

**Every person who is born is born into Satan's kingdom of darkness.**

The unsaved serve Satan and his spiritual forces to work his purposes.

**Ephesians 2:1-3**

*And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;*

<sup>2</sup> *Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:*

<sup>3</sup> *Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*

This is the kingdom which the unsaved live in now. When a person gets saved, they are taken from Satan's kingdom and translated into the Kingdom of God.

**Colossians 1:12-14**

<sup>12</sup> *Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:*

*13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:*

*14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:*

We are commissioned to carry the Gospel to these people who are still in the kingdom of Satan and snatch them from the fire. Notice what Jude wrote to his readers.

**Jude 1:21-23**

*21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.*

*22 And of some have compassion, making a difference:*

*23 And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.*

Jude was writing concern false teachers who lead many astray. The believers who get caught up in the false teachings we are to have compassion on them and help them to get free. The unbelievers we are to save with fear snatching them out of the fire. In all we are to be very careful that we do not get pulled into the false teaching and be stained.

When Jesus came to the earth, He made it very clear that He came to save sinners.

**Luke 19:10**

*10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*

Now we are His ambassadors, and it is our responsibility to go into the world to share the Gospel.

**2 Corinthians 5:18-20**

*18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;*

*19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.*

*20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.*

Getting back to the battle, this is what it is about. Satan is doing all he can to stop us from sharing the Gospel effectively with the lost. So he will try his best to get us consumed with worry, fear, worldliness, health issues or anything else that will occupy our time and thoughts to keep us from reaching out to save people from Satan's kingdom.

## 2 Timothy 2:2-4

<sup>2</sup> *And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.*

<sup>3</sup> *Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.*

<sup>4</sup> *No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.*

Now let us get back to the armour. So far, we have looked at two parts of the armour.

### I. The Girdle of Truth

Notice Ephesians 6:14a

### II. The Breast Plate of Righteousness

Notice Ephesians 6:14b

This now brings us to the next part of the armour.

### III. The Shoes of the Gospel of Peace

Notice Ephesians 6:15

The soldiers in Paul's day wore shoes that were made so that the soldier would be sure footed in the battle. They wore sandals that had spikes protruding through the bottom of them for traction. These shoes prevented slipping and gave them traction for pushing forward and also allowed them to be stable when the battle was fought on uneven ground. Keep in mind the battles were hand to hand combat, so stability was very important.

The word "preparation" here tells us that we must be prepared at all times. The enemy will attack at unexpected times and therefore we must be ready for the attacks. The soldier had to be quick and mobile and so do we. We must have the Truth wrapped around us and we must be protected by the breastplate of righteousness. We cannot drop our guard. Let us remember that the armour is our defense, and the enemy will set many ambushes and if we are not ready, he will defeat us.

So what is Paul talking about here in this verse pertaining to shodding our feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace?

This is not a call to carry the Gospel to all the world and we know this because Paul has already told us to STAND. This soldier is not moving but he is STANDING. The thought here is that we must have a solid foundation and the foundation which Paul references here is the Gospel of Peace. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the Gospel of Peace in two ways, and both are included in this foundation.

Paul is calling us to keep in mind who we are and what we have because of the Gospel.

**1. We have Peace with God.**

**Romans 5:1-2, 6-10**

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

<sup>2</sup> By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

<sup>6</sup> For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

<sup>7</sup> For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

<sup>8</sup> But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

<sup>9</sup> Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

<sup>10</sup> For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

There was a time when we were God's enemies but now, we have been reconciled to God and we have peace with Him. We are on God's side in this battle, and we must keep this in mind. Let us notice something that happened when the king of Syria sent to Dothan to capture Elisha. Elisha had a young man with him who became very fearful because of the Syrian army.

**2 Kings 6:14-17**

<sup>14</sup> Therefore sent he thither horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by night, and compassed the city about.

<sup>15</sup> And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do?

<sup>16</sup> And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.

<sup>17</sup> And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

This is the spiritual military that we stand with. We are surrounded by a heavenly host because we are on the Lord's side. We have peace with God therefore we are on the winning side.

## How did this happen?

It is the Gospel that has brought us into this peace with God. That is why Paul refers to it as the Gospel of Peace.

### 1 John 2:1-2

*My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:*

<sup>2</sup> And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

Jesus is the propitiation for our sins which means he satisfied the wrath of God for us. As sinners we were under the wrath of God, and we were children of wrath but when we were saved the blood of Jesus was applied to us and the wrath of God was satisfied.

### Romans 8:31-32

<sup>31</sup> What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

<sup>32</sup> He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

This Truth is so important to understand because there will be times in the battle when you feel as though you are all alone. You may be the only one in your family that takes a stand, and the others may turn against you. You may be the only person at work who takes a stand and when it is just you then you need the foundation of the Gospel of Peace. You need to keep in mind that you are on the Lord's side and that you are not alone.

**2 Timothy 4:14-17**

<sup>14</sup> *Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works:*

<sup>15</sup> *Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words.*

<sup>16</sup> *At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.*

<sup>17</sup> *Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.*

The foundation which we stand on is the Gospel of Peace in which we have peace with God. There is also another blessing of peace that comes to the believer through the Gospel.

**2. Peace of God.**

In this world that we are in the news and the direction that our world is moving has kept many people from having peace in their heart. But we who are believers can have a peace that the world knows nothing about. It is the PEACE OF GOD. It comes to the believer when we surrender our concerns and cares to our Lord.

**Philippians 4:4-9**

<sup>4</sup> *Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.*

<sup>5</sup> *Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.*

<sup>6</sup> *Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*

<sup>7</sup> *And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

<sup>8</sup> Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

<sup>9</sup> Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and **the God of peace shall be with you.**

**Conclusion:**

In the midst of the spiritual battle we desperately need to know that we have PEACE WITH GOD, and we certainly need to have the PEACE OF GOD in our hearts. We will be easily defeated if we think God has abandon us in the battle. We will also be easily defeated if we go into the battle without the peace of God in our hearts.

If a believer is scattered in thought, then there is no way they will be effective in the battle. We must have peace within our hearts otherwise we will be double minded.

**James 1:8**

<sup>8</sup> A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.