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Series: Wholly Armed, Part 4

Look At Those Beautiful Feet!

Text: Ephesians 6:15

Feet shod(Greek= *hupodeomai*. Three times in the NT) with the preparation(Greek word[*hetoimasia*] is used only here in the NT) of the gospel.

Some expositors have argued about this phrase, *preparation of the gospel*. Some have said it means *firmness or steadfastness*. Others say it means *readiness*.

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Let's stay with the battle imagery. We are to ready ourselves to stand firmly and sure-footedly and fight the good fight.

Comment [1]:

“Of the gospel of peace”- two ways to understand this phrase. This speaks of source(this prep is *from* the gospel). This also speaks of content. The gospel is one of peace.

What is the gospel? It is the good news of God's sending His son to the earth to die a substitutionary death, satisfying the demands of a just God. That good news, that gospel, brings peace (Ephesians 1:2; 2:14,15,17; 4:3). This is the message we take into the world. We are to be prepared to take the good news everywhere, to have holy conversations while we fight the powers of darkness.

This image of shoes, boots and feet has to do with two aspects of our engagement with the forces of evil, with Satan himself.

1. **Mobility**- this is not a static battle. In this one, we move. This is theoretical. No, this doing battle with principalities and powers and rulers of darkness of this age and spiritual wickedness in the heavenly places is going to require our mobility. Paradox: We who are called to **peace**, are to be dressed for **battle**.
2. **Sure-footedness**- Remember the imperative earlier in the passage: STAND!!. We cannot do that in flip flops. Our feet must be shod with a certain kind of covering. Harold Hoehner, in his Ephesians: An Exegetical Commentary:

It is the believers' 'surefootedness' in the tranquility of the mind and security of the heart in the gospel of peace that

gives them readiness to stand against the devil and his angelic host.

From the drscholls.com website:

You were born to move, but sometimes you need a little help. And whether you want comfort and energy, pain relief or athletic support to keep moving in your job, hobby or favorite sport, we have a range of products to help you do just that.

Comment [2]:

Beloved, *we were born to move*, but sometimes we need help. That help is the armor of God. Get dressed!

Comment [3]:

Illus.

I heard a comedian say you can get away with the most insulting remark to a woman if you simply end with, “with your fine self”. “That dress and hairdo

make you look old...with your fine self.” :)

I want to suggest the same with our feet. “You seem to have problems getting active in ministry....with your beautiful feet!”

Look at your feet, those beautiful feet! Some feet with corns? Beautiful nonetheless. Bunions? Beautiful nonetheless. Hammertoe? Beautiful nonetheless. Athlete’s foot? Ingrown toenails? Blisters? Calluses? Toenail fungus? Plantar fasciitis? Heel spurs? Fallen arches/flat feet? Gout?

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!”

When Paul closes I Corinthians, he has, in chapter 16, a series of final exhortations.

One of those parting words is:

*Watch, **stand fast** in the faith, be brave, be strong(v.13)*

Stand!...with your beautiful, shod, gospel-preaching feet!

Thomas Gombis writes (The Drama of

Ephesians:Participating in the Drama of God. p. 160) that

the Church is called to a **strategy of resistance**. We are

not called to defeat the powers of darkness. They have

already been defeated in the death, burial, resurrection

and ascension of Jesus. Our task is to STANDAGAINST

those powers.

Comment [4]:

Comment [5]:

Amen