

Ephesians 6:14-15 *Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;*

1. Introduction:

a. Spiritual battle against the Devil

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

b. During trying times, Christian does not want to stumble

c. Stumbling often caused by being unaware of surroundings

d. So many kinds of shoes available today

e. Roman sandals for soldiers had spikes on bottom

2. Words used in this Bible verse

a. Shod: verb for shoes meaning something put on feet to wear

b. Preparation: be ready, prepare

c. Gospel: God's good news that Jesus die, was buried, & resurrected (life from the dead) on 3rd day

d. Peace: Friendship & harmony, & freedom from fear

3. Reception of the Gospel

a. Gospel is purchased redemption

i. This is the gospel message

1 Corinthian 15:1, 3-4 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; ... For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

ii. Jesus paid the price for human sin

1 Peter 1:18-19 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

- iii. Jesus made peace possible by the blood that flowed down from Him on the cross

Colossians 1:20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, [I say], whether [they be] things in earth, or things in heaven.

- iv. Jesus' death was God's act of love

John 3:16-17 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

- v. God so loved the world that He gave salvation as a free gift

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

b. Gospel is personal choice – example of Ethiopian eunuch

- i. Ethiopian eunuch reading book of Isaiah while sitting on his chariot

Acts 8:27-28 And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet.

- ii. Ethiopian reads Isaiah 53:7-8

Acts 8:32-33 The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth.

Isaiah 53:7-8 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

- iii. Philip explains prophecy about Jesus to Ethiopian eunuch

Acts 8:34-35 And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

- iv. Ethiopian eunuch believes with all his heart about Jesus

Acts 8:36-37 And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

4. Reflection on the Gospel

a. Gospel of peace

- i. But God made us alive together with Christ

Ephesians 2:4-5 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

- ii. Christian has peace with God

Romans 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

b. Gospel brings new purpose

- i. Do all things to the glory of God

1 Corinthians 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

- ii. Transformed (changed) life by giving yourself as living sacrifice to God

Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

- iii. Christian living is Christ

Philippians 1:21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

c. Gospel brings new perspective

- i. Seek those things from above

Colossians 3:1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

- ii. Set you affection on things above

Colossians 3:2-3 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

5. Ramifications of the Gospel

a. Gospel changes Christian

i. Christian is new creation

2 Corinthian 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

ii. Christian conformed (changed) into Jesus' image

Romans 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

iii. Christian looking into mirror of God's glory changed into His image

2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

iv. Christian is child of God's light

Ephesians 5:8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

b. Gospel comforts Christian with Spirit of adoption

Romans 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

c. Gospel challenges Christian to leave behind sin

2 Timothy 2:19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

d. Gospel compels Christian

i. Christian to be found faithful

1 Corinthians 4:1-2 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

ii. Christian to tell about Christ Jesus

2 Corinthians 4:5-6 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

- iii. Christian to go & tell others to call upon the name of the Lord

Romans 10:13-14 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. 14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

6. Conclusion

- a. Gospel is power of God to salvation

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

- b. Christian sent to tell the gospel of peace

Romans 10:15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!