

**Solid Rock Christian Church Manassas, Virginia**

**Bible Study - March 18, 2021**

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**Title: "Are You Wearing Your Killer Shoes?"**

**Scripture Reference: 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."**

**I. Introduction**

A. I want to begin this study by asking you this; What came immediately to your mind when you read the title for this week's Bible Study? Did your mind go to your closet or your shoe rack when you looked at the title?

B. If so, did you focus on that pair of shoes that you "know look good" and especially when you put them on? I think I have your attention, so let's proceed with the lesson.

C. If you had seen the shoes of a Roman soldier, you would have wanted to make sure that you did not fall in front of him or get in his way where he might accidentally step on you. The reason for this is that the soldier's shoes were not normal shoes as we think of them today. They were Killer Shoes!

D. Paul refers to these killer shoes in Ephesians 6:15 as he talks about the spiritual weapons God has given to the Church. Just as God has given each believer the sword of the spirit (i.e., the Word of God), He has also clothed every believer with the shoes of peace.

E. As you think about these shoes, they may seem like a passive, peaceful part of our spiritual armor. However, these are actually killer shoes, such as those worn by a Roman soldier.

**II. Exposition [Part I]**

A. The shoes of a Roman soldier were vicious weapons. They began at the top of the legs near the knees and extended down to the feet.

B. The portions that covered the knees to the feet were called the "**greaves.**" They were made of metal and were specially shaped to wrap around the calves of a soldier's legs.

**Comment:** The greaves were uncomfortable but essential for the safekeeping of a soldier's legs.

C. The shoe itself was made of heavy pieces of leather or metal, tied together with leather straps that were intermingled with bits of metal.

D. The bottoms were made of heavy leather or pieces of metal. The bottom of the shoes were fitted with sharp, dangerous, protruding spikes. These spikes had several purposes, which we will cover in just a moment.

E. Additionally, two sharply pointed spikes extended beyond the front of each shoe.

F. Now I'll discuss the reasons for all of this gear on a soldier's legs and feet.

### **III. Exposition [Part II]**

A. First, the greaves - the metal that covered the Roman soldier's legs from his knees to the top of his feet - were designed to protect the soldier's calves when he was required to march through rocky and thorny terrain.

B. If the soldier had no protection on his legs, he would most surely have been gashed and cut by rocks and other objects in that rocky and thorny terrain.

C. Therefore, the greaves gave the soldier protection so he could keep walking, regardless of the obstacles he encountered.

D. The metal barriers also gave him defensive protection in

those moments when an adversary kicked him in the shins, trying to break his legs.

E. Because the soldier's calves were covered with these greaves his legs could not be easily broken, and the enemy's attacks on his legs would be in vain.

#### IV. Exposition [Part III]

A. Now, let's discuss the spikes on the bottom of the soldier's shoes. These were intended to hold him "in place" when in battle.

B. His opponent might try to push him around, but the spikes on the bottom of his shoes helped keep him in his place, making the soldier virtually immovable.

C. Additionally, those spikes on the bottom and front of the shoes served as weapons of brutality. One good kick with those shoes and an enemy would be severely injured or killed. Just a few seconds of stomping on a fallen adversary - and I think you get the picture.

D. When Paul writes about these shoes in Ephesians 6:15, he says "... **And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.**"

**Comment:** Notice that Paul connects peace with these killer weapons! (Hold on for just a few more minutes and you'll understand why.)

#### V. Exposition [Part IV]

A. The word "shod" is derived from the word *hupodeomai* - a compound of the words *hupo* and *deo*.

B. The word *hupo* means under, and *deo* means **to bind**. Taken together as one word, it conveys the idea of **binding something very tightly on the bottom of one's foot**.

C. Therefore, this is not the picture of a loosely fitting shoe but of a shoe that has been tied onto the bottom of the foot **extremely tight**.

D. Just as the greaves of a Roman soldier protected him from the environment and from the blows of his enemy, the peace of God - when it is operating in your life - protects and defends you from the assaults of the devil.

E. The enemy may try to disrupt and distract you, and steal your attention, by causing negative events to whirl all around you; but his attempts will fail because the peace of God, like a protective greave, stops you from being hurt and enables you to keep marching forward!

(It's OK to go ahead and SHOUT right here!)

F. Just as those spikes in a Roman soldier's shoes held him securely in place when his enemy tried to push him around, the peace of God will hold you in place when the devil tries to push you around.

## VI. Exposition [Part V]

A. Paul uses this illustration to let us know that we must firmly tie God's peace onto our lives; this is the supernatural peace of God.

B. If we only give God's peace a loosely fitting position in our lives, it won't be long before the affairs of life knock our peace out of place.

C. Therefore, we must **bind** peace onto our minds and emotions in the same way Roman soldiers made sure to **bind** their shoes very tightly onto their feet.

D. There is one more important point we still need to discuss. Paul continued by saying, "and your feet shod with the **preparation** of the gospel ..."

E. The word "preparation" is the Greek word ***etoimasin***, and it presents the idea of **readiness** or **preparation**.

F. When used in conjunction with Roman soldiers, the word ***etoimasin*** portrayed ***men of war who had their shoes tied on***

*very tightly to ensure firm footing.*

G. Once they had the assurance that their shoes were going to stay in place, they were ready to march out onto the battlefield and confront the enemy.,

H. When God's peace is in place in your life, it gives you the assurance you need to step out in faith and make the moves God is leading you to make.

## **VII. Summary**

A. Before you take any steps, you need to be sure that God's peace is operating in your life.

B. This mighty and powerful piece of your spiritual weaponry is essential, without it, the enemy will try to kick, pull, and distract you.

C. But, with that conquering piece of armor firmly tied to your mind and emotions, you will be empowered to keep marching ahead, trusting the Lord Jesus Christ, every step of the way.

**Do you have on your Killer Shoes? Are they on tight?**

It is once again interactive time. Please complete the biblical passages below by filling in the blank spaces. All passages have been taken from the King James Version of the Holy Bible.

"I \_\_\_\_\_ toward the \_\_\_\_\_ for the prize of the \_\_\_\_\_ calling of God in Christ Jesus."

[Philippians 3:14]

"Yea, though I \_\_\_\_\_ through the \_\_\_\_\_ of the shadow of death, I will \_\_\_\_\_ no evil; for thou \_\_\_\_\_; thy rod and thy staff they \_\_\_\_\_ me."

[Psalm 23:4]

"The \_\_\_\_\_ of a good man are \_\_\_\_\_ by the Lord: and he \_\_\_\_\_ in his way."

[Psalm 37:23]

"O bless our God, ye people, and make the \_\_\_\_\_ of his \_\_\_\_\_ to be heard. Which \_\_\_\_\_ our soul in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ not our \_\_\_\_\_ to be moved."

[Psalm 66:8,9]

"God is our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, a very \_\_\_\_\_ help in \_\_\_\_\_."

[Psalm 46:1]

### QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER

1. Have there been some difficult times in your life when the peace of God protected you from the turmoil that was happening around you?
2. Now that you know what your "killer shoes" are, is it comforting to know that God has given you this armor for your protection?
3. Are you committed to continue this walk of faith that God requires of you?

Thank you for being a part of this study session and please feel free to share what you have gleaned with others.

Jude 3

Pastor Austin