

Series: Ephesians  
Title: Ready-Made Shoes  
Text: Ephesians 6: 15  
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The Holy Spirit used the apostle Paul to declare the believers need of having on the whole armor of God. One of those pieces of armor are shoes. He said, “**And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.**” (Eph 6: 15)

We have been seeing God’s purpose in trials. Christ said through Paul, “Ye must through much tribulation enter the kingdom of God.” (Acts 14: 22) Satan’s chief desire is to bruise our Achilles. So the devil and his Chihuahuas are always nipping at our heels. In order for a believer to walk through the fire of trial—through the life of faith—God has provided us shoes.

## YOUR FEET

First, he speaks of “your feet.” What does God say in his word about our feet as unbelievers? God says, “Their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood.” (Pro 1: 16) The natural man has “An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief.” (Pro 6: 18) God says, “Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood: their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths.” (Is 59: 7; Rom 3:15)

Sinner, hear what God says about you—about us all—as we are born in this world the first time. Can you say this is true of you? Before God does anything else for his child, his child must be made to confess that our feet run to evil, make haste to shed innocent blood, are swift to run to mischief, that wasting and destruction is in our paths. Until we are humbled by God’s grace, we shall never have the peace of Christ’s free justification. The Lord Jesus illustrated that truth in his parable of the Pharisee and the publican.

Luke 18: 9: And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10: Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. 11: The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men *are*, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. 12: I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. 13: And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as *his* eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. 14: I tell you, this man went down to his house justified *rather* than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Christ Jesus came to save sinners not the righteous.

Matthew 9: 10: And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples. 11: And when the Pharisees saw *it*, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners? 12: But when Jesus heard *that*, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. 13: But go ye and learn what *that* meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

## HAVING YOUR FEET SHOD

Secondly, our text speaks of having your feet shod, “Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And [having] your feet shod...(Eph 6:14-15)

It means Christ is the one who “shods” our feet. He puts these shoes on us. The word “preparation” means the shoes are already prepared when God puts them on his child. Our shoes are “Ready-made Shoes.”

True believers are not cobblers. It is not our business to be making shoes for our feet. Suppose you go to a physician with a broken foot. The physician tells you that he partly has a remedy but you have to set your foot, you have to put pins in your foot yourself, you have to make a cast and crutches yourself. It would not be good news. You would seek another physician who had the ability to completely make you whole. The Christ of the bible does not require you to do part of the work. That would not be good news. Sinner, right now, if you think you have some ability, some righteousness, some life in you, as long as you are a cobbler—trying to prepare these shoes yourself—then this gospel will not be good news to you. The Christ of the bible, the Christ of heaven, has done all the work. These shoes are prepared for the feet of his saints. Peter called it “salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” (1 Pet 1:5)

When you go to the shoe store, you find hundreds of different styles and sizes. With God, there is one shoe, one size, one style, which fits all God’s saints because it is made especially for his saints. But we have tried to make all sorts of shoes for our feet by our vain works. So the first thing Christ does to save his child from the evil path of our feet is to strip us of our shoes. When Christ called Moses in the burning bush, before Christ sent Moses into battle, he told Moses, “put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.” (Ex 3: 5) When Christ met Joshua, before sending Joshua to battle against Jericho, “The captain of the LORD’S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest [is] holy. And Joshua did so.” (Jos 5:15)

Then Christ himself shods the feet of his servants. The Psalmist wrote, “He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.” (Ps 40: 2) “He maketh my feet like hinds’ feet: and setteth me upon my high places.” (2 Sam 22: 34)

Therefore, when Christ sends his preacher with the good news, his preacher preaches with certainty, dogmatically, because Christ has shod his feet. That is why we read, “How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!” (Is 52: 7)

## **WITH WHAT ARE WE SHOD?**

Our text declares that we are shod with the gospel of peace, “And [having] your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.” (Eph 6: 15)

Every child that Christ saves, he finds, not at peace with God, but engaged in a most strange warfare. In the sinners defiled mind, he considers the true and living God to be his enemy. The truth, his enemy is Satan, sin, death and hell.

In the sinners defiled heart, he thinks he is well-fortified for battle, but fact is, Satan, with his wiles, has clothed the poor sinner: his loins are girt about with a lie, rather than the truth; his breastplate is his own unrighteous works, rather than the righteousness of Christ; his feet are unshod and filthy while he walks in his own vain way; his flimsy shield is “faith in his faith”, against which Satan would not dare fire a dart; his helmet is of condemnation rather than salvation because his conscience having not been purged with the blood of Christ never knows if he has done enough; his weapon is the dull butter knife of “this is what I think” or the word of some false preacher, rather than “the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” So Satan has him decked in hells most flammable armor! Therefore, with every vain work, the sinner thinks he is launching an attack on Satan, but in reality he is launching an attack against Christ, against salvation by free grace through faith.

Yet, Christ, in sovereign mercy, sends this wretched enemy an ambassador, preaching “the gospel of peace, and bringing glad tidings of good things!” (Rom 10: 15) Here is the message of “the gospel of peace.” The message Christ sends to his poor, lost, redeemed child is:

2 Corinthians 5: 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. 21: For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

As the message goes forth, Christ speaks to the heart, declaring effectually, “he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.” (Is 53: 5)

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. 21: And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in *your* mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled 22: In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight: 23: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and *be* not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, *and* which was preached...”

Through this gospel of peace, Christ strips the sinner of his filthy, flimsy, costume-armor, revealing in his heart, “*There is* no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.” (Isa 57:21) Christ speaks personally to the sinner by the Holy Spirit, declaring, “The way of peace [you] know not; and *there is* no judgment in [your] goings: [you] have made [you] crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace.” (Isa 59:8) With this word, for the first time, the poor sinner sees himself as a real sinner. He sees all his works vanity; he sees himself worthy of nothing but death.

Then Christ puts real armor upon him, declaring,

Ezekiel 37:26 Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with [you]; it shall be an everlasting covenant with [you]: and I will place [you], and multiply [you], and will set my sanctuary in the midst of [you] for evermore.

Isaiah 54: 10: For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee.

Isaiah 55: 11: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. 12: For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap *their* hands.

Isaiah 57: 19: I create the fruit of the lips; Peace, peace to *him that is* far off, and to *him that is* near, saith the LORD; and I will heal him.

John 16: 33: These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Finally, Christ says to him, “O man greatly beloved, fear not: peace *be* unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong. And when he had spoken unto me, I was strengthened, and said, Let my lord speak; for thou hast strengthened me.” (Da 10:19)

At last, the poor sinner hears Christ’s command given through his preacher, “We then, *as* workers together *with him*, beseech *you* also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation.)” (2Cor 5: 18-21; 6:1-2)

The poor sinner finds himself believing on Christ, trusting that Christ has justified him, “Therefore being justified, by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Rom 5: 1) Not only do he find that Christ has made peace for him with God but also Christ had peace for him with his brethren, “For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between us*; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *even* the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, *so* making peace;” (Eph 2:14-15) That is how we come to have our feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. Christ does it through the gospel of peace.

From that day forward, we have this confidence. Through the gospel of peace, Christ “will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail.” (1 Sa 2: 9) “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” (Php 4: 7) Believer, thank God for these ready-made shoes. And unless we forget, there is one last thing Christ shall do for us in a very short time, “And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.” (Rom 16: 20)

**Amen!**