

# Spiritual Warfare: The Furnishings for Spiritual Warfare - 3

**Introduction:** In this first section, we have dealt with the first two items listed in the armor of God.

*“The implication of v. 13 is that Christians, having been forewarned, must be forearmed. Knowing warfare is always a possibility, they must make all the necessary preparations beforehand to withstand attack.”*

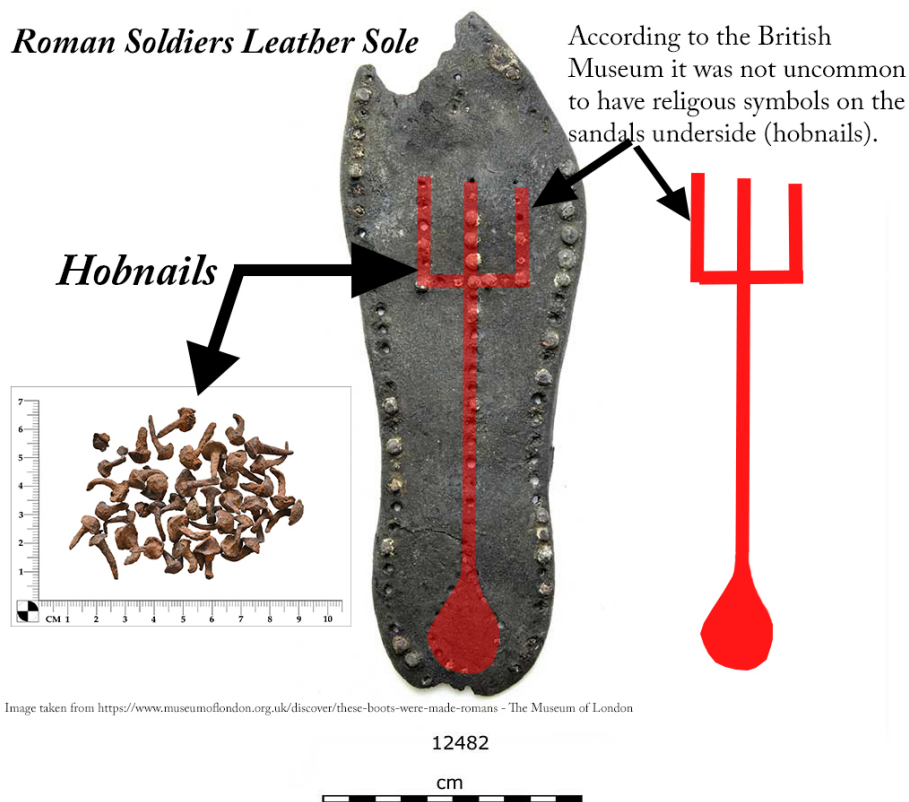
**Verse 14**, the Bible says that we are to have our *“loins girt about with truth...”*

In that verse, we have the conjunction ‘and,’ which ties together the next item, *“the breastplate of righteousness...”*

Let us turn attention now to our text, beginning in verses **14-16**,

*“14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.”*

I want us to think about and meditate upon these last two items in this section; the shod feet and the shield of faith.



In this picture, you see the bottom of a Roman Sandal. You will notice “hobnails” affixed on the bottom of this sandal. These hobnails were in place to give the wearer traction and allow them to stand firm. (We might think about spikes on a pair of golf shoes or cleats worn for sports.)

Remember, we are dealing with Spiritual Warfare.

The Bible says we are to have our *“feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace...”*

**How can we find peace amid a raging war, really the war to end all wars? How can it be?**

If we were dealing with worldly wisdom, we would undoubtedly say this is foolishness! But here, we have a gem of God’s wisdom.

The Word of God tells us that *“the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.”* **I Corinthians 1:25**

We are to shod our feet. The word used here means to tie underneath, to bind, or to fasten.

Notice this excerpt from *Kittel’s Theological Dictionary of the New Testament* - “The verb *hypodéō* means “to furnish with footgear,” middle “to put on sandals.” In the Near East and Greece people usually go barefoot or wear sandals. Sandals are put off for worship, mourning, and fasting. Slaves tie and untie them, and carry them when not needed. Assyrian soldiers wear laced boots, the Roman legionaries wear half-boots with strong soles, and in Rome shoes of leather, often expensive, are worn. John the Baptist is not even worthy to carry or untie the sandals of the mightier one who is to come (Mt. 3:11 and par.)”<sup>1</sup>

What are we to shod our feet with? The answer is given in our text, *“the preparation of the gospel of peace...”* The word ‘preparation’ in our text gives the idea of being ready for movement and sturdiness in standing.

Please think about two of the most significant assaults in the warfare we face.

**The first is primary, and that has to do with the doctrine concerning the Lord Jesus Christ.**

All religions and philosophies can be tried with the litmus paper, “What think ye of Christ?”

The Bible says in **I John 4:2-3**, *“2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: 3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.”*

**The second is directly connected to the first, which is the doctrine concerning Salvation.**

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<sup>1</sup> Gerhard Kittel, Gerhard Friedrich, and Geoffrey William Bromiley, *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, Abridged in One Volume (Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans, 1985), 705.

## **We Stand Upon The Gospel of Peace**

John Gill stated this in his commentary concerning this passage, “the word ετοιμασια [preparation] signifies a "base", or foundation; and so it is used by the Septuagint interpreters on **Zec 5:11 [Ezra 3:3; Psalm 88:15 ‘throne’]** ; and here it designs a firm and solid knowledge of the Gospel, as it publishes peace by Jesus Christ, which yields a sure foundation for the Christian soldier to set his foot upon, and stand fast on; it being that to him, as the shoe is to the foot, its base or foundation: and for the feet to be "shod with" it”

**This is the solid foundation by which we stand. We must be steadfast upon the Gospel, the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

The Lord Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace, but He also separates the wheat from the chaff. In other words, He is the great divider. The all-consuming question is always this, **What think ye of Christ?**

As we look at the **application** of this, we have several items to consider.

### **1. You and I should be settled and grounded in the Gospel.**

Our greatest understanding ought to be centered on the person of the Lord Jesus Christ and Salvation. The Devil succeeds in His warfare against us if the Christian doubts their Salvation. Regardless of whether I am steady or not, the Gospel of our Salvation is sure. The question ought to be answered by each of us,

“What do you know concerning the Gospel of peace?”

“Is your faith grounded in the Word of God?”

“Can you point to what is recorded in the Word of God concerning the Gospel of peace?”

When dealing with someone who doubts their Salvation, **two things must be done.**

#### ***a. We must take them to the Scriptures.***

This is a primary thing. Here are a few verses that may be helpful: **John 1:12, John 3:16, John 3:36, John 3:14-21, John 3:36, John 10:27-30, Ephesians 2:9-9, John 3:14-21, John 10:27-30; Romans 4:5, Romans 11:6; Ephesians 2:8-9; Hebrews 11:6**

#### ***b. We must, with God’s help and their willingness, lead them to understand why it is that they are doubting.***

Is their faith in the incarnate Word and the Word of God? Have they been living a life away from the Lord Jesus Christ, out of fellowship?

The Bible says in **Philippians 2:12-13**, “*12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence,*

***work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. 13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.***”

Paul is letting these Philippian believers know that they are displaying the outward fruits of Salvation through obedience. They are working out their Salvation (not working **for** their Salvation.) They are strengthening their understanding that they are children of God by yielding to the work of the Lord in their lives. I may own the shoes, but I must put them on.

## **2. We ought to be ready to declare the Gospel of peace.**

I believe by way of application that many are not ready for battle because **they are not prepared to declare the Gospel of peace.**

The Bible says, *“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and **be ready always to give an answer** to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: **Having a good conscience**; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your **good conversation in Christ.**”* **1 Peter 3:15-16**

How do I prepare to declare the Gospel of peace?

- We spend time reading and knowing the Word of God.
- We commit to memory the Gospel message. (We do the work to be able to tell someone about our Savior.)
- We ask the Lord for boldness, utterance, and wisdom.

## **3. We must stay in the steps of the Savior.**

This piece of armor speaks to our movement in the steps of the Savior. The Lord Jesus Christ commanded us in this manner. In **Matthew chapter 16**, one of the most remarkable turn of events took place in the life of Simon Peter.

In **verses 13-17**, Peter makes a remarkable heaven-given statement concerning the Lord Jesus Christ. He answers the one crucial question of this life that is key to everything. The Lord Jesus asks, *“whom say ye that I am?”*

And the Word of God records this wonderful response, *“And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.”*

In **verse 21** of that same chapter we find these words, *“From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.”*

*“Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, **let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.** For whosoever will save his life*

*shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.” (vs. 24,25)*

## **The Shield of Faith**

The Bible says in **verse 16**, “Above all, **taking the shield of faith**, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.”

Armor is intended to provide **protection** and **prepares us for battle**. But here, we are explicitly told that taking up the shield of faith **provides a defense against** “*the fiery darts of the wicked.*”

This shield more than likely refers to a Roman Scutum. A shield is only in possession of the individual with the expectation of taking the attack of the enemy intended to hurt the Soldier.

Herein we see the necessity for God’s protective design for **the faith-life of the Christian.**

How is it that we combat the fiery darts of doubt that the enemy sends our way? With truth? Yes, but truth without belief is no good to us.

Truth must be girted about us. But truth must be known and believed. It must be lived out and acted upon, thus validating our faith is genuine.