

## *feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace* Ephesians 6:15

This is the third aspect of the armour of God – the shoes. It is critical to be able to stand in a world that is so unstable in almost every sense of the word.

We see Paul using the Roman soldier he is chained to, to illustrate the necessity of being properly prepared to serve the Lord in an adverse world.

The Roman soldier wore a sandal that had a 12mm thick sole with straps across the top of the foot and up the shin. It was a vital part of armour as soldiers had to be able to stand and fight, as well as move quickly and travel long distances on foot. One of the ways their enemy, the

Barbarians, disabled a soldier was to put traps on the ground with a sharpened stick. Once stepped on, it would pierce the foot. Whilst the injury wasn't major, the foot invariably became seriously infected thus rendering the soldier ineffective.

Romans 5v1 says; *Therefore, having been justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.* Because of the fall of Adam and Eve every human being is born into this world literally at war with God i.e. by nature rebellious against God and His will and purpose for us. So for us to have the readiness to share the gospel we need to know, first and foremost, Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Saviour.

Having genuinely come to Christ and experienced **peace with God**, opens the way to have **the peace of God**. Philippians 4:6-7 say; *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*

One of our greatest areas of witness to the non-Christian is how we handle difficulties and struggles in our day-to-day life. If we are characterised by worry, anxiety, stress and outbursts of impatience, we lose our distinctiveness as Christians, basically because that is how the world behaves.

Putting on the shoes of the preparation of the gospel of peace is all about a readiness

*Continued over*

### **PRAISE** the Lord for:

- ★ The continued work on discipleship booklets for Kenya. Each new believer will have material to help them grow in their faith
- ★ Caring Partners (basic health care service) + A Child's Hope International (Care box containing food, water + paper) who continue to use the paper as an outreach tool
- ★ The way Challenge is being distributed around the world through prisons, street ministry, churches, door to door, medical teams, mission teams, sports ministry etc
- ★ Papers being delivered and distributed in Zambia with great success

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to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Being anxious for nothing seems to be an amazingly all-inclusive statement. It does not mean that our problems and struggles are suppressed or that we passively pretend that there is no problem. All this will do is give us all sorts of unpleasant medical problems.

What is needed is an appropriate outlet. Paul says that in everything by prayer and supplication make known your difficulties, struggles and battles to God. Don't hold onto or hide your anxieties, instead share them with God. By faith we are placing all our anxieties into God's sovereign and providential care.

As we do this, God gives us His peace, a peace that is beyond human comprehension. Why? Because it is a peace that can only come from God. Intrinsic to this peace is our prayer life. On many occasions I have mentioned the decline of Christians who have a quality devotional time with the Lord on a daily basis. As a result the church is becoming more anxious, often underlined by the exponential growth in the need for counselling. Isaiah 26v3 has a very relevant comment to make on this matter: *You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.*

**PRAYER** needed for:

- ★ The ongoing increase in distribution of the newspaper both in Australia and overseas
- ★ A new mission concept - Impact WA. Designed to give exposure to local and remote churches and communities with an emphasis on evangelism
- ★ A request for a Portuguese Military edition of the paper commencing June 2021. Funding is required.
- ★ Another request coming from a ministry called Hellenic Ministries for a online Greek version of the paper

Anxiety is symptomatic of unbelief. Christians can exhibit an incredible testimony by not being anxious despite the gravity of the circumstances. Note also that as we pray we should couple it with thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is a key element of submission to God, to His sovereignty and providential working.

One last thing I think is important to see in terms of experiencing the peace of God, is having a sound understanding of what exactly the gospel is. It is the good news of Jesus Christ's substitutionary death, burial and resurrection, which has defeated the power of death and sin. Paul says it so well in Romans 8:1-2; *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.*

Putting on the gospel shoes is part of recognising that God has done for us what we could never do for ourselves. So we not only experience **peace with God**, but also **the peace of God** in our daily walk with Him.

{ CARL CARMODY  
EDITOR CHALLENGE }



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