

## Boots of the Gospel

[Eph 6:15 ESV] 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.

### I. Intro

#### A. Recap:

1. The work of putting on the belt of truth
2. The falling into the breastplate of righteousness

#### B. This week: The work of the readiness of the gospel of peace

#### C. The footwear you choose in circumstances is important:

1. Sports: cleats, running shoes, Hiking boots, high tops, etc...
2. Texas: flip flops
3. War: boots that have tread and support
4. Footwear provides solid contact with the ground and allows for intended movement and agility.

#### D. Feet ready for the gospel is also going to provide effectiveness in the most basic, but important level

#### E. What are we putting on this week?

1. Putting on READINESS
2. It comes from the gospel of peace
3. You are putting on readiness, which takes work
4. That comes from the gospel, that is a gift.

### II. Text

#### A. Shoes for your feet:

1. we are marching into a world with shoes fit by readiness
2. These shoes are special, they come from a gift, and they are effective.
3. They are also enough

#### B. Having put on:

1. Shod, buckled
2. The work and responsibility of the warrior

#### C. The readiness:

1. Prepare, make ready
2. The specific greek word here is only used one time in all of scripture, but the root of this word is used more than 40.
3. One time as a noun, 40+ times as a verb
4. Nominalization: "interference" is a nominalization of "interfere," "decision" is a nominalization of "decide," and "argument" is a nominalization of "argue."
5. So, the verb is "Prepare", the noun is preparedness
  - a) Verbs are actions
  - b) Nouns are persons, places, or things
  - c) Preparedness is a THING we possess, because we have been called to prepare.

#### D. GIVEN

1. This is how we are made ready: it is the gospel given to us
2. There is a responsibility and expectation

#### E. By the gospel of peace

1. The good news
2. That you can be at peace with God

### III. Point

#### A. The Work of Readiness

1. Let us be prepared for gospel ministry
2. [2Ti 4:1-4 ESV] 1 I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with

complete patience and teaching. 3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

3. This is a calling for those who have been redeemed and sent.
  4. What about you?
    - a) Are you prepared, ready?
    - b) Who did you share the gospel with this week?
    - c) Is it a natural conversation for you?
    - d) How are you striving to get better at preparedness?
  5. D.L. Moody quote: One day a lady criticized DL Moody for his methods of evangelism in attempting to win people to the Lord. Moody's reply was "I agree with you. I don't like the way I do it either. Tell me, how do you do it?" The lady replied, "I don't do it." Moody responded, "I like my way of doing it better than your way of not doing it."
    - a) Now, I'm not sure of the authenticity of the story, but I've heard this all my life.
    - b) The point is that we should have a method, a plan, and proclaim the truth.
  6. Mission Trip kid presentation of the gospel.
- B. The Blessing of Readiness
1. When you are ready, God provides more opportunity
  2. Or...when you are preparing, God provides more opportunity
  3. Or...when you are preparing, you notice more opportunities around you.
  4. There is a blessing in being surrendered to the Lord and ready to speak truth in Love, and then finding God provides the words you need at just the right time.
  5. Illus: Being Ready for winter:
    - a) When the cold weather hit a few weeks ago, I knew I need to be prepared.
      - (1) I had firewood on the porch
      - (2) The pipes were as protected as possible
      - (3) The generator was ready to crank, and gas tanks were full.
      - (4) I checked everything multiple times...and then when the storm hit, I was ready.
      - (5) There was nothing else to do, it was to late for that
      - (6) I rested until something needed my attention.
    - b) Are you ready for winter? Or whatever is next?
  6. Readiness brings peace, and takes the stress level down a notch.
  7. A blessing from God!
- C. The Result of Readiness
1. The results are His, the obedience is ours.
  2. We need a reminder:
    - a) Jesus saves
    - b) I'm not the savior
    - c) My responsibility is obedience.
  3. We have a huge responsibility:
    - a) to follow the Lord by faith
    - b) To serve by faith
    - c) To obey by faith
  4. I have misunderstood this truth from time to time, but we celebrate it today:
    - a) We serve in obedience
    - b) We leave the results up to God
    - c) And we are successful!
  5. If we desire to hear "Well done good and faithful servant."
    - a) We will understand that obedience is the key
    - b) We understand that success looks different than the worlds version.
    - c) We serve within our giftedness and mission, and God brings the results.

IV. Close

- A. The gospel of peace makes us ready
- B. The Gospel of peace compels us forward in service and ministry
- C. Put on readiness like shoes, fit for the situation
- D. Preach the gospel!