

Proper Footwear

Ephesians 6:15 Sunday AM, April 7, 2024

Prelude – Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-15 (NASB95) Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. 14 Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, 15 and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE;

Finally, be strong IN THE LORD. Being “in the Lord” is the only way to join Paul as a “prisoner of the Lord” seeking to “walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called.” Being in the Lord is not merely a decision for heaven instead of hell, or a feeling of being well-adjusted in life and thanking God for it. Instead, being in the Lord speaks of faith focused on God leading to worship and obedience. Much inside your head and heart as well as outside stands against living this way. The ability to stand against all that would oppose God and to live to please Him comes from God Himself and is described in terms of battle. **Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.**

This says that while the devil and those under him work to defeat those who would be strong in the Lord, God has made provision of armor stronger than every other person, spiritual power, or thought that wars against the Lord and His purposes. Look to God for the belt of truth—stability against all other realities—theirs, yours, and the devil’s. Look to God for the breastplate of righteousness—a right standard and a right standing, producing right actions that please God. While we will never see the full extent of the spiritual struggle, turning to God in biblical faith in the face of the struggle we do see reveals One who is present, working, and able. Church, praise God for all given to us in Christ our Living Head!

*Hymn #111: Join All the Glorious Names

Today, we look to God to have our feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. In order to give the gospel, the good news of peace with God, you must first know this peace with God. Sing contemplating not merely peace, but peace COMING from Christ.

*Hymn #487: Peace, Perfect Peace

*Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn **Choir:** Before the Throne of God Above

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 1:1–2:4 Paul and Silvanus and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. 2 We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers; 3 constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father, 4 knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you; 5 for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. 6 You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, 7 so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. 8 For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything. 9 For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, 10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come. 1 For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain, 2 but after we had already suffered and been mistreated in Philippi, as you know, we had the boldness in our God to speak to you the gospel of God amid much opposition. 3 For our exhortation does not come from error or impurity or by way of deceit; 4 but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who examines our hearts.

Offering: *Doxology:

To receive the gospel of peace, to live and to give that peace frees you to live each moment for God, hating the sin which entangles, separating us from trust in God’s work for us. Did you hear the choir? When Satan tempts me to despair and tells me of the guilt within. Upward I look and see Him there who made an end of all my sin. Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free, for God the Just is satisfied to look on Him and pardon me. Christian, look to God and LIVE! Did you hear all the life in the Thessalonian believers. They were not focused on life or just community together, but on the work of faith, the labor of love, and the steadfastness of hope in the Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of their God and Father. Their labor was experienced by others, not for their approval, but as a direct result of what they received from God. And did they ever receive! They received the Word of God with the joy of the Holy Spirit. Sing this deep-rooted faith.

*Hymn (Powerpoint): Anchored

I know few songs that describe the spreading of the gospel of peace as succinctly as this modern anthem. As Pastor Jahn prepares to preach on this next piece of armor, let this song drive your gaze from yourself to God’s gracious gift to you bringing peace. Christian love the Lord your God!

*Hymn (Powerpoint): The Mission

Message: Proper Footwear Eph. 6:15

*Hymn #294: Set My Soul Afire

*Prayer