

THE NEW HUMANITY OF JESUS THE CHRIST:

MEDITATIONS IN THE HOLY APOSTLE PAUL'S ADDRESS TO THE EPHESIAN FAITHFUL

THE HOLY WARRIORS OF GOD, II: READINESS

(EPHESIANS 6:15)

I. On the Importance of Feet (in Peace and in War)

II. The Shoes of the Readiness of the Gospel of Peace (Eph 6:15)

- A. Paul has introduced us to two pieces of armor:
 - 1. The belt of truth
 - 2. The breastplate of righteousness
- B. Paul now introduces us to the shoes of the Christian soldier (6:15a).
- C. "In readiness of the gospel of peace" (6:15b).
 - 1. The shoes are not the gospel, but the "readiness" of the gospel.
 - 2. "Readiness" is the state of being prepared, of being ready for action.
 - 3. "Readiness" comes from the gospel of peace.
- D. There are two possibilities as to what "readiness of the gospel" can mean.
 - 1. "Readiness of the gospel" means "readiness *from* the gospel" (ESV, NIV).
 - 2. "Readiness of the gospel" means "readiness *for* the gospel" (HCSB).
 - 3. Since the context is about preparing to resist the evil one and not to preach the gospel, (1) is the better option.
- E. What is "the gospel of peace"?
 - 1. The word "gospel" means "good news."
 - a. The gospel is a fact.
 - b. The gospel is a fact that should give us joy.
 - 2. "The gospel of peace" means "the good news that brings us peace" or, more likely, "the good news about our peace."
 - 3. Paul's understanding of "peace" is in Ephesians 2:14-16:
 - a. Christ is our peace.
 - b. Christ has created peace between us and God's people.
 - c. Christ has created peace between us and God himself.

- 4. The gospel of peace is the good news that Christ Jesus has made peace between us and God and his people (Eph 2:14-16).

- F. What does Paul mean by "readiness from the gospel"?
—We now have the right and the ability to resist the prince of the air because Christ Jesus has already reconciled us to God and his people.
- G. Question: *Why does our peace in Christ make us ready to resist the evil one?*
 - 1. Peace with God (in Christ) puts us in conflict with Satan and his realm.
 - 2. Peace with God (in Christ) weakens Satan's ability to demoralize us by his accusations.
 - 3. Peace with God (in Christ) makes us certain of victory (Rom 8:38, 39).
- H. **The shoes of readiness give the Christian confidence to resist the full might of the evil cosmic powers.**

III. Gospel-Rooted Warriors

God calls his children to stand firm against the evil one with their feet covered by the readiness from the gospel of peace. But to stay in a state of readiness for our holy warfare, God wants us to really know what Jesus has accomplished for us—and to rest our whole lives on it. Since the gospel of peace is what gives us confidence to resist the full might of the evil cosmic powers, we must know and believe the gospel of peace.