

“Take your Stand” Ephesians 6:10-13 “Prepared Feet”

A former president of the Norwegian Academy of Sciences and historians from England, Egypt, Germany, and India have come up with some startling information: Since 3600 B.C. the world has known only 292 years of peace! During this period there have been 14,351 wars, large and small, in which 3.64 billion people have been killed. The value of the property destroyed would pay for a golden belt around the world 97.2 miles wide and 33 feet thick.

Boots vs. “Caligae”

- Josephus – “shoes thickly studded with sharp nails”
- 2 Fold Advantage
 1. lightweight (pic1)
 2. strong foothold (pic2)

Ex. - in battle Alexander the great and Julius Caesar success due to long marches with speed

- **Primary Purpose** = = “with your feet fitted with the gospel of peace as a ***firm footing***”

“Gospel”

- **Good news about the reconciliation that comes through Jesus Christ – peace with God**
- **believing in the promises of God and having peace that come from knowing Him give us a “foundation” commonly in Septuagint**
 - if we have peace with God and each other then we are prepared to stand against the devil and his schemes

Peace

- Grk - “Eirene” - 2 elements
 - harmonious relationship between people, nations...”
 - and a peaceful heart inside us

When we look at the bible it speaks of these two types of peace as being:

1. **Peace with God**

– being in a right relationship with God ends the warring that takes place between us and God.

- **Romans 5:1-2** - "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God."

- **Matthew 5:9** - "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

- the end of the hostility between God and us - through submission
- God forgives us our sins and places us in community, a family, we become children of God
- no more fighting against God = not easy to live in this world and we can be prodigal like, but God is always there for us - with open arms

Illustration : "Safety consists not in the absence of danger but in the presence of God." Peace that Jesus gives is not the absence of trouble, but is rather the confidence that He is there with you always. Peace, is a precious jewel." Matthew Henry

2. **Peace of God**

– quietness of our soul despite what may be going on around us. Not determined by circumstances but a gift that comes from our relationship with God

- **Isaiah 26:3** - "You will keep in perfect peace

those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you."

- **Ephesians 4:14** - "Then we will no longer be

infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and

craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming." (wrt Christian unity and maturity) = stability that comes from God

- **Col.3:15** - "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful."

Illustration : "I rest beneath the Almighty's shade, My griefs expire, my troubles cease; Thou, Lord, on whom my soul is stayed, Wilt keep me still in perfect peace." - Charles Wesley

- is that sense of confidence and assurance, no matter what is going on around us - it is steady
- many people are easily upset when something changes in their routine -
Ex. our life recently - car, move, car, caring... easy to NOT feel at peace. But this peace goes beyond - thankful,
- contentedness Paul speaks of in Phil 4 -
I am not saying this (thanking them for their support) because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹²I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³I can do all this through him who gives me strength.
- "Lord on whom my soul is stayed"

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Boots vs. "_____"

- "Shoes thickly studded with sharp _____"
- 2 fold advantage
 1. _____
 2. _____

= "with your feet fitted with the gospel of peace as a ***firm footing***"

"Gospel"

- _____ about the _____ that come through Jesus Christ
- "foundation" commonly in Septuagint
 - if we have _____ with God then we are _____ to _____ against the devil

"Peace"

- "Eirene" = "_____ between people, nations..."
= "a _____ inside us"

2 Types of Peace

1. Peace _____ God
 - Romans 5:1-2, Matthew 5:9
2. Peace _____ God
 - Isaiah 26:3, Ephesians 4:14, Col.3:15