

THE SHOES OF THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL.

- A. Think of shoes as providing mobility and availability to your commander, the Lord Jesus Christ. The shoes, or sandals, are called "the preparation of the gospel." In other words, it means being ready with something. As Christians, we are obligated to have an intelligent understanding of the gospel.
- B. I believe "preparation" includes study of the Scripture, memorization of Scripture, and the ability to communicate intelligently the gospel message (1Pet. 3:15).
*but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always **being** ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;*
- C. The gospel is a message of peace. Peace with God, peace with others, and peace with ourselves.
- D. Some scriptures concerning the gospel:
 1. Mt. 4:23; 11:5.
(Mt. 4:23) Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people. (Mt. 11:5) the BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM.
 2. Mk. 8:35; 10:29-30; 16:15-16.
*(Mk 8:35) For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. (Mk 10:29-30) Jesus said, "Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel's sake, **30** but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life. (Mk 16:15-16) And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. **16** He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.*
 3. Lk. 16:16.
*"The Law and the Prophets **were proclaimed** until John; since that time the gospel of the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it.*
 4. Rom 1:16.
For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
 5. 1Cor. 15:1-4.
*Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, **2** by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. **3** For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, **4** and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,*
 6. 2Cor. 4:3-4.
*And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, **4** in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*
 7. Gal. 1:6-9.
*I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; **7** which is *really* not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. **8** But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! **9** As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!*
 8. Eph. 1:13.
In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation--having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,

9. Phil. 1:27.
Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;
10. 2Th. 2:14.
It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

THE SHEILD OF FAITH.

- A. In the Greek of the NT, there are two different words for “shield.” One is a small, circular shield, shaped more or less like a large, round flat wicker basket. The other one is a long rectangular shield and is taken from the word for door because it is shaped somewhat like a door. This is the kind of shield Paul speak of when he says “the shield of faith.”
- B. A properly trained Roman legionary could use that shield so that no part of his body could be reached by the missiles of the enemy. It protected him completely.
- C. When we go out against Satan, if we begin to cause him any trouble, you can be sure he will counterattack. First, he may counterattack our minds, our hearts, our bodies, or our finances, so we need to have a shield that covers us.
- D. Types of faith:
 1. Common Faith (Ti. 1:4).
To Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.
 2. Weak Faith (Rom. 4:19).
Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah’s womb;
 3. Strong Faith (Rom. 4:20).
yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God,
 4. Little Faith (Mt. 6:30).
But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is *alive* today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, *will He* not much more *clothe* you? You of little faith!
 5. Great Faith (Mt. 8:10).
Now when Jesus heard *this*, He marveled and said to those who were following, “Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel.
 6. Sincere Faith (1Tim. 1:5).
But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.
 7. Inactive (mental) or Active Faith (see Jas. 2:14-26).
 8. Wavering Faith (Jas. 1:5-8).
But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. **6** But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. **7** For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, **8** *being* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.
 9. Unwavering Faith (Heb. 10:23).
Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;
- E. Some scriptures to consider on faith:
 1. Hab. 2:4.
“Behold, as for the proud one,
His soul is not right within him;
But the righteous will live by his faith.
 2. Rom 10:17.
So faith *comes* from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

3. 1Cor. 2:5; 13:13.
(1Cor 2:5) so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.
(1Cor 13:13) But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.
4. 2Cor. 5:7.
for we walk by faith, not by sight--
5. Gal. 2:20; 3:24-26.
(Gal 2:20) I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.
(Gal 3:24-26) Therefore the Law has become our tutor *to lead us* to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. **25** But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. **26** For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.
6. Eph. 2:8.
For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God;
7. Col. 2:5-7.
For even though I am absent in body, nevertheless I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good discipline and the stability of your faith in Christ.
6 Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, *so* walk in Him, **7** having been firmly rooted *and now* being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, *and* overflowing with gratitude.
8. 1Tim. 1:5; 4:12.
(1Tim 1:5) But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.
(1Tim 4:12) Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but *rather* in speech, conduct, love, faith *and* purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.
9. 2Tim. 4:7.
I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;

NEXT WEEK.

- A. The Full Armor of God (Eph. 6:10-17).
- B. The Helmet and the Sword.