

Hurst Green
9th Sep 2018
Eph 6 15
Gospel of peace

Now here is a fun verse – now don't just read what is in the Church bibles – what would you have said that this verse said?

Interesting – the reason that I called this a fun verse is that the various translators come up with very different versions of what the verse says.

That usually means that you have got to stretch your brains a bit and that is always good for you.

Our Bibles

Ephesians 6:15 (ANIV)

¹⁵ *and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.*

Nothing about shoes or sandals here.

Some of the translations:

[New Living Translation](#)

For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared.

[New American Standard Bible](#)

and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE;

[International Standard Version](#)

and being firm-footed in the gospel of peace.

And the other translations are variations on a theme but they are variations which shows the difficulties the translators have had with the original language.

I have saved myself that difficulty by never having learnt the original languages!!

But that leaves me with needing to make sense of the variations for they are all there for a reason.

The rest of the armour seems so straightforward compared to this – we know a belt, we know a breastplate, we know a helmet etc

If it said sandals we would know then too but it doesn't and we have to stir our grey cells into motion once again to make sense of our bibles and to ensure that we are ready.

For the whole armour is there so that we are ready to stand against the devil's schemes.

And of course one of the key things for standing is your feet.

You need the right footwear for the ground you are standing on and the task in hand.

Hobnail boots may be great for the parade square but they are no good for the officers' mess.

Sandals may be great for the beach but are no good for the mountain peaks.

You get the picture!!

So let us grab some points from this little verse.

You fit your footwear

Firstly most of the translations require you to have fitted your footwear and of course that is true of the whole armour for this passage tells you to put on the armour – you don't stand back and let some else put your armour on

You have to get off your backside and do it yourself.

That gives you a challenge here because you choose your footwear and should do so based on the task in front of you,

Of course you could decide that the hobnail boot is the one size fits all solution.

Or that bare feet may be the best answer because it requires the least effort on your part but those and other routes are going to lead you into difficulties because the aim of the passage is that you may stand.

If you choose the wrong footwear standing may be difficult and you may wish for whatever option you have left in the cupboard at home.

Take care how you shod your feet

From the gospel

After that some good news or at least some better news.

All of the verses whether they use readiness or preparation say that the footwear you choose comes from the gospel of peace.

You don't have to make it up – it comes to you from the gospel.

But you do have to access it – it doesn't simply pop up in the hall ready for you to put on – you have to go into the shoe cupboard and make some choices

One variation on this theme of variations is in the International standard version which says

And being firm footed in the gospel of peace

The gospel of peace is still there and it is that gospel and that gospel alone that you can be firm footed and so to stand and overcome.

So choose your footwear but get it on and get it on firmly so that you may stand for you stand on your own two feet and not on someone else's.

Fully prepared or ready

And all of this makes you ready or prepared. You may not know and probably do not know what is coming over the horizon at you but the gospel is there for every eventuality and every situation.

Therefore the gospel that has given you the footwear now reassures you that you are **fully** prepared for whatever is coming down the tracks.

Remember how beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news

Now for reassurance – God has prepared you for whatever he has in store for you. If you have ignored his preparation he will not send you into that battle because you are not ready – you are not yet ready.

You can wimp out but always remember that on that last day of judgement we will have to account for all of our actions.

All God has done in your past. All God has put you through has been for this hour that you might stand

And in this hour God is preparing you for tomorrow so that you may stand in whatever good works he has put before you.

There is always something to do and sometimes you are the one to do it – sometimes you are the only one available to do it!!

God does these things and God does new things that we might bring honour and glory to his name.

In standing we are part of these new things – what has God prepared you for?

What has God prepared for you to do?

Where should you be standing and what footwear should you be strapping on to do the jobs of today.

Not the same old jobs as yester year and not the jobs he has waiting for you in the future but today's jobs for you put on the armour for today.

Armour is not put on and never taken off – each day you put on the armour.

Each day you choose your footwear but it is always the readiness of the gospel of peace and it always comes from the gospel of peace.

Fit your feet with that readiness – Let's get the job done