



Message Notes

Winning Against Evil – Righteousness

Ephesians 6

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace...

We must grasp:

- **Evil's Reality & Strategy— (Lies)**
 - **Our Vulnerability (Holes)**
 - **God's Victory (Realized in Our Lives)**
 - * **Buckled up with Truth, His truths and truthfulness!**
 - * **The Breastplate of Righteousness in place!**

God's Victory— Readiness

Readiness—preparedness, a _____, availability, strategic
o _____, courage!

“Without the right footwear -“shoes”- for the situation and without “having them on” anything outside of the “best possible scenario” of circumstances will tank us or at best sideline us as inconsequential in the struggle. In fact, without “shoes on readiness” we will not even show up in time for the battle —rendering the rest of our available armor ,with all its potential, unusable.”

The key to “readiness” in this battle is the “good news of _____!”

Satan has an amazing advantage in our lives when we do not “fit _____” consistently with readiness that finds its source in the good news of peace.

The Good News Of Peace

***Luke 2** ¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."*

***Isaiah 26** ³ You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you.*

***Isaiah 53** ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.*

***John 14** ²⁵"All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*

***John 16** ³³"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*

***Romans 5** ¹Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we^[a] have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we^[b] rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. ³Not only so, but we^[c] also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.*

***Colossians 3** ¹⁵Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.*

***Philippians 4** ⁴Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶**Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.** ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

“When the Good News of Peace is in me and works through me as normal—I am an agile, ready and courageously opportunistic combatant against evil.”

PRAYER & DEVOTION

Over the next week I encourage you to practice personal connection with God! Hear His refreshing words of hope as we learn to trust Him everyday! Trusting Jesus will bring positive change and deep purpose into our lives. Spending some time everyday with God in prayer and contemplation on some Bible passages is a simple, but life-changing encounter! The following schedule of scripture readings will give you an opportunity to unpack some of what God says about “fitting ourselves with the good news of peace”!

Helpful Hints:

- 1) Find a quiet place along with 15-20 minutes!
- 2) Focus on God for a few moments asking His Spirit to speak to your heart!
- 3) Listen to Him by reading a section of scripture then rereading it several times, dwelling on “words and phrases” which grab your heart’s attention.
Ask God, “What do You want me to hear?” “Why this word at this time?”
“How are You inviting me to respond?”
- 4) Pray everything that is on your heart and mind as you are ready!
Worship Him, Bless Him, Thank Him, Ask Him, Trust Him

Prayer and Devotion Guide

September 28-October 3

Monday **Isaiah 53:4-6**

Personal Notes:

Tuesday **Romans 5:1-5**

Personal Notes:

Wednesday **Colossians 3:12-17**

Personal Notes:

Thursday: **Ephesians 6:10-18**

Personal Notes:

Friday: **Philippians 4:4-7**

Personal Notes:

Saturday: **Philippians 4:4-7**

Personal Notes:

“Peace and Paul”

A Personal and Small Group Study

READ Ephesians 6:10-15

Discuss thoughts and insights that have caught your attention so far in this scripture text and in this series on “Winning Against Evil.”

“...feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace...”

I think I would have written it differently—but that is the way Paul wrote it. For a reason I am sure. He is very adamant about this war with evil we are engaged in. Some days are worse than other days but we all have to admit there are those “day of evil” days for which we sorely need armor. With simple metaphors like belts and now “shoes” Paul is really trying to communicate constant readiness as “normal” in life—as routine as putting on your shoes” What gets me about this piece of armor is the analogy between “readiness” and the “good news of peace”.

Discuss initial reactions in the group about possibly what was behind the connection in Paul’s mind when he correlated “peace” with “readiness” in the spiritual battle.

It might be helpful to look at it in the opposite. *What does “un-peace look like in your life and the lives of those around you? How do you know when someone is not experiencing the “good news of peace”? How does that make them (and us) more vulnerable to the forces of evil?*

One of the best ways to unpack more of what Paul (and the Holy Spirit) wants us to get out of this analogy is to look at how the concept of peace is used in the rest of this letter and in some of Paul’s other letters. As you look at these verses ask:

- What dimensions is this verse adding to my grasp of the concept of “peace”?
- How is this verse “good news” to me specifically at this point in my life—maybe even this week or today?
- How does being absorbed in this “good news of peace” make me more ready to face the devil’s schemes and more agile in the spiritual battle?

Ephesians 2:13-18

Ephesians 4:2-4

Colossians 1:15-20

Philippians 4:4-7