

THE CHRISTIAN WARRIOR

1. THE CHRISTIAN'S WEAPON (ARMOR)

THE FOURTH PART OF THE MESSAGE ON THE CHRISTIAN WARRIOR:

1. **BELT OF TRUTH (Eph. 6:14)**—Put on the belt of truth (*aletheia*) to stand against the schemes of the devil
2. **BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (Eph. 6:14)**—Put on the breastplate of righteousness to stand against the schemes of the devil
3. **SHOES FOR YOUR FEET, HAVING PUT ON THE READINESS GIVEN BY THE GOSPEL OF PEACE (Eph. 6:15)**—Put on the gospel of peace to stand against the schemes of the devil
 - ❖ **NLT**, “For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared.” **BE ALWAYS READY TO APPLY THE GOSPEL OF PEACE.**

The Gospel of Peace has three aspects:

1. THE GOSPEL OF PEACE IS A GOSPEL OF PEACE WITH GOD

Reconciliation: Bringing peace to a hostile relationship

- ❖ **Eph. 2:13**, “But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been **brought near** by the blood of Christ”
- ❖ **Eph. 2:16**, “and might **reconcile us both to God** in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.”

John Stott: Here (v.16) the ‘hostility’ is clearly between God and men

- ❖ **Romans 5:1**, “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Every time we sin, we need the Gospel of Peace to stand against the schemes of the devil who seeks to condemn us because of our sins:

- ❖ **I John 2:1-2**, “My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.”

Dane Ortlund in “Gentle and Lowly”: The Bible nowhere teaches that once we have been savingly united with Christ, we will find grievous sins to be a thing of the past. On the contrary, it is our regenerate state that has more deeply sensitized us to the impropriety of our sins. Our sins feel far more sinful after we have become believers than before. And it’s not only our felt perception of our sinfulness; we do indeed continue to sin after becoming believers. Sometimes we sin big sins.

And that’s what Christ’s advocacy is for. It’s God way of encouraging us not to throw in the towel. Yes, we fail Christ as his disciples. But his advocacy on our behalf rises higher than our sins. His advocacy speaks louder than our failures.

When you sin, remember your legal standing before God because of the work of Christ; but remember also your advocate before God because of the heart of Christ. He rises up and defends your cause, based on the merits of his own sufferings and death. Your salvation is not merely a matter of a saving formula, but of a saving person. When you sin, his strength of resolve rises all the higher.

2. THE GOSPEL OF PEACE IS A GOSPEL OF PEACE WITH ONE ANOTHER

- ❖ **Ephesians 2:14-15**, For **he himself is our peace**, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh **the dividing wall of hostility** by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, **that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace**
- ❖ **2:14**, “Broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility”

John Stott: Here the hostility was chiefly between Jew and Gentile

❖ **2:14**, “who has made us both one”—united us together

Bible scholars say that in Greek it literally means “he has made both things into one thing” **NO TWO DIFFERENT PEOPLE BUT ONE PEOPLE OF GOD**

❖ **Galatians 3:28**, There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

The devil’s scheme: To live as a church with caste, race, color, professional, and class distinctions. Therefore, put on the Gospel of peace which makes us one in Christ.

John Piper: The good news of peace is that when Christ died and shed his blood for sin, two kinds of enmity were overcome. The enmity between God and repentant sinners was brought to an end. And the enmity between races and factions in Christ was brought to an end. So Christ became our peace. That is the gospel of peace.

Also, the devil’s schemes: To cause divisions and bitterness due to interpersonal weaknesses, offenses, and problems. Therefore, put on the Gospel of peace which keeps us one in Christ.

❖ **Ephesians 4:1-3**, “I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, **urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling** to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, **eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.**”

- The Gospel calling is a calling to live in the bond of peace with one another.

3. THE GOSPEL OF PEACE IS A PROCLAMATION TO SINNERS TO RECONCILE TO GOD

a. BE READY TO DEFEND YOUR HOPE IN THE GOSPEL

❖ **1 Peter 3:15**, “but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect...”

Martyn Lloyd-Jones: Do you know what to believe? Is there anything for which you are prepared to ‘stand’? I do not apologize for putting such questions. It seems to me that people are ready today to compromise on everything. Do you really believe that the Bible is the Word of God, divinely and uniquely inspired, and inerrant? Are you ready to stand on that truth? That is what is meant by putting on the sandals. Are you ready to stand for the deity of Christ? for his Virgin Birth? for the miracles? Are you ready to stand for the substitutionary, sacrificial, atoning death of our Lord? Are you ready to stand for the resurrection of Christ as a literal physical fact? Are you ready to stand for the Person of the Holy Spirit? Do you know where you want to stand, do you know your position? How can you fight the enemy if you do not know your own position?

b. BE READY TO PROCLAIM THE MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL

- ❖ **Romans 10:13-15**, For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” How then will they **call on him** in whom they have not believed? And how are they **to believe in him** of whom they have never heard? And how are they **to hear** without someone preaching? And how are they **to preach** unless **they are sent**? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” (cf. Isa. 52:7)
- ❖ **Ephesians 6:19-20**, “[Pray] also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.”

Clinton Arnold: Members of the body of Christ are called to take the gospel to the ends of the earth, that is, to “fill” the world (1:23; 4:10) with the good news that peace with God is now possible through the shed blood of Jesus Christ (2:14, 15, 17). Believers are thus called to prepare themselves to share the gospel. This involves becoming well acquainted with the heart of the gospel message, preparing themselves in how to proclaim it and seeking directions from “the head” of the church on where to go to share the message. The proclamation of the gospel represents a major assault on the kingdom of Satan... Spreading this good news means opposing the work of the

principalities and powers, who endeavor to blind the minds of unbelievers so they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ (2 Cor 4:4).

Applications:

- Are you ready with the Gospel of peace in your battle against sin, not letting the devil either to harden your heart or to condemn yourself?
- Are you ready with the Gospel of peace in the body of Christ, not letting the devil either to cause divisions via caste, class...etc or via interpersonal problems, offenses?
- Are you ready with the Gospel of peace when you are questioned of your convictions?
- Are you ready with the Gospel of peace by proclaiming it to the lost?
- Have you believed in the Gospel? Repent and trust in Christ's atonement for your sin.

Fifth part of the Sermon continued next week... (pray, prepare, prevail)