

Sunday School Lesson for the Month of June 2017

The Sandals of Readiness

Ephesians 6:15

Sunday, June 4, 2107

Every Christian has a malicious enemy in the devil, for he will do all within the powers of hell to disappoint us, defeat us, and destroy our witness for Jesus Christ. If you live under the illusion that you do not have an enemy in the world, you need to forget about that illusion. The devil is out to get you and will do so unless you commit yourself without reservation to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The Christian life is a struggle. It is like running uphill; like swimming upstream. Followers of Jesus Christ are not to float through life.

Paul sought to strengthen the believers in Ephesus, as well as those of us who live in the present, by detailing the various pieces of armor that God has provided for the protection of His children and His servants, as they engage in spiritual conflict. He pointed out the absolute necessity of our putting on the whole armor of God if we want to withstand in the evil day and having done all, to stand.

In this month's lesson, Paul called attention to the fact that a good soldier must provide proper care and protection for his feet since his feet are the limbs that make for progress in life and in service.

Biblical history says that the Roman soldier wore a rugged type of hobnailed sandal that enabled him to establish a firm footing even on slippery ground while in head-to-head conflict with the enemy. Paul declared that our Father God provides the necessary and proper sandal for Christians in their conflict with evil and in their service in the world.

This lesson definitely has to do with the gospel that brings the peace of God into the hearts of people, and it specifically emphasizes an attitude of readiness and eagerness.

I believe what Paul was trying to communicate is that if we are to overcome evil, we must respond to God's goodness and let peace fill our hearts. We must have a deep inward eagerness to share the message that brings peace and joy to the hearts and lives of others.

Sunday, June 11, 2017

I. The believer enjoys peace with God. (Romans 5:1)

Isaiah described the Messiah with a number of beautiful titles that told of the Ministry that he would render. Isaiah's list of titles came to its zenith when he declared that the Messiah would be the "Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

When the birth of the Savior was announced, the Angelic choir sang of the peace he would bring on earth among people who would seek to do God's will (Luke 2:13-14). Following our Lord's resurrection from the dead, He greeted His disciples with a benediction of peace on them (John 20:21). Our Lord came to bring peace to people and among people. The peace that He seeks to give is not that which is won on the battlefield but at the depth of the human heart. His peace is not the peace of stagnation or inactivity. His peace is not a spiritual narcotic to keep one from facing reality. The Prince of Peace gives believers peace with God through a right relationship with Him.

This relationship allows believers to form right relationships with themselves and others and results in the furthering of peace.

Sunday, June 18, 2017

II. The believer is to share the message of Peace.

One reason why the average follower of Christ is not an enthusiastic sharer of the good news of God's love is the confusion concerning the nature of the message we have to proclaim. The gospel is not mere good advice. The Lord never sent us on the mission of advising others. Our primary function is not to call for a reformation of conduct; it is to share the good news of God's grace in and through Jesus Christ. Isaiah described our function as those who bring peace to those who are captives:

*"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him
who brings good tidings, who publishes peace, who
brings good tidings of good, who publishes salvation. (Isaiah 52:7)"*

Paul quoted this passage from Isaiah as he sought to encourage believers to share the gospel with an unbelieving world (Romans 10:24-15).

Using the sandals of a Roman soldier as a metaphor, Paul declared that if we are to overcome evil, we must have our feet prepared. We must be eager and ready to carry Christ's message of peace to all who are in spiritual darkness.

Are you ready at all times and under all circumstances to share with others the great truth of God's love for them as it is revealed in Jesus Christ? This

attitude of readiness and eagerness will not only provide protection for us but will also be the means of communicating God's love to those who are in great need.

Paul often expressed his eagerness and readiness to share the good news of God's love with a needy world (Romans 1:14-15). He considered himself a debtor to God and a debtor to the unsaved world. He was filled with an eagerness to share the good news of God's love with the people in Rome. Furthermore, he encouraged the believers in Corinth to have this attitude of eagerness and readiness to share the good news by assuring them that God was in the business of saving those who would come to him.

Sunday, June 25, 2017

III. The believer proclaims the peace that passes all understanding. (Philippians 4:7)

If you do not rejoice in the peace that passes all understanding that comes through faith in Jesus Christ, and if you are not eager to share this message that brings peace with others, you are in danger of being overcome by evil and defeated by the devil.

The primary emphasis of this passage is on the proclamation of the good news of God's love to a needy world. The subjective effect of this attitude of readiness will provide for us as individuals the protection we need from the assaults of Satan. We need to respond to the call of God as did Isaiah when he said, "Here am I, send me" (Isaiah 6:8). Like the early disciples of our Lord, we need to go everywhere announcing the good news of God's love (Acts 8:4).