

The background of the image is a dark, moody sky filled with heavy, swirling grey and black clouds, suggesting a storm or a dark, ominous atmosphere. The text is centered and rendered in a white, textured, sans-serif font. The top line of text is semi-transparent, allowing the clouds behind it to be visible. The bottom line of text is solid white and more prominent.

THE INVISIBLE WAR  
AGAINST SATAN



Part 11: The Breastplate of Righteousness  
& the Sandals of Readiness



# Introduction

The belt of truth, as we noted in our last lecture, guards the loins, which determines the body's strength. As theologian John Frame reminded us, "Truth is ontologically the reality of God and all he has made." Being obedient to Peter's admonition to "gird your minds for action" (I Pt. 1:13) is foundational for living the Christian life and overcoming all lies and deception in the invisible war against Satan.

The next piece of armor we are enjoined to put on is the *breastplate of righteousness*. By it, we gain confidence that we are in a right relationship with God, have assurance of our salvation, and are continuing to be conformed to the image of His son, Jesus Christ. In addition to the breastplate, we will also consider the meaning of the *sandals of readiness*.

# The Armor of God

- The Belt of Truth
- **The Breastplate of Righteousness**
- **The Sandals of Readiness**
- The Shield of Faith
- The Helmet of Salvation
- The Sword of the Spirit
- All-Prayer



# The Point of Attack

Having come into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, some people's moods, feelings, and thoughts may begin to change over time, leading them to leave their first love (Rev. 2:4). Their hearts begin to question the historicity of Jesus, his death, resurrection, and ascension. Assurance of salvation, once a source of great blessing, confidence, and encouragement, begins to fade, along with the idea of justification by grace alone through faith alone. Doubts begin to grow until they no longer "feel anything." Dejection sets in and the door is subtly opened to spiritual attack.

# How Satan Attacks Us

- He incites us to question our salvation (assurance).
- We begin to have inordinate desires and become attracted to the world (e.g. Demas, II Tim. 4:10; Phil. 3:17-19).
- Guilt begins overwhelm us for past sins (“Look what you did!”).
- He tempts us to make foolish comparisons with other people (“I’m not as bad as so-and-so”).
- He challenges us to reconsider the basis for our righteousness (“There are many other ways to get to heaven”).

# How the Breastplate Protects Us

- It protects the heart – our desires, will, and conscience
- It protects the lungs – the things we “breathe” into our lives
- It protects the kidneys – our emotions
- “Spiritually, the breastplate is the devout and holy life” (Hendriksen).





# What is Righteousness?

- “Justice, uprightness, rectitude; conformity of life to the requirements of the divine or moral law; virtue, integrity” (OED).
- In a moral and religious sense: *uprightness, righteousness*, the characteristic required of men by God (Arndt & Gingrich).
- “In a broad sense, goodness is conduct (by man or by God himself) that measures up to God’s standards (e.g., Gen. 3:5; Lev. 5:4; Num. 24:13; Rom. 2:10;3:12). As such, it is more or less synonymous with *righteousness*” (John Frame).
- “The main idea of divine righteousness is that God acts according to a perfect internal standard of right and wrong” (Frame).





# What is Righteousness?

- God’s “moral standard is simply himself, his person, his nature. His acts are righteous because he is a righteous God. Righteousness, therefore, is his desire, his pleasure. The standard of our moral behavior is not an abstract concept, but an infinite person, God himself” (Frame).
- Paul counted “everything as loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord...and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the **righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith**” (Phil. 3:8-9).

# *Righteousness* in Romans

- “For in it (the gospel) the ***righteousness of God*** is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘But the righteous man shall live by faith’” (Rom. 1:17).
- “But now apart from the Law the ***righteousness of God*** has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets; even the ***righteousness of God*** through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe” (Rom. 3:21-22).
- “For not knowing about ***God’s righteousness***, and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the ***righteousness of God***” (Rom. 10:3).

# The Righteousness of Christ



**R.C. Sproul**  
1939-2017

“The Bible says that we are not justified by our own good works, but by what is added to us by faith, namely the righteousness of Christ. In a synthesis, something new is added to something basic. Our justification is a synthesis because we have the righteousness of Christ added to us. Our justification is by imputation. God transfers to us, by faith, the righteousness of Christ. This is not ‘legal fiction’ because God ascribes to us the real merit of Christ, to whom we now belong. It is a real imputation.”

# Righteousness: *Imputed* vs. *Imparted*

- **Legal righteousness** is *imputed*. It is not infused, i.e., it does not change one's character. "Therefore it was reckoned to him (Abraham) as righteousness" (Rom. 4:22). Imputed righteousness is a legal declaration: "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 8:1).
- **Evangelical righteousness** is *imparted*. A new seed of life has been placed in me so that I may grow in grace and be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ.

# Westminster Larger Catechism

## **Q. 70. What is justification?**

A. Justification is an act of God's free grace unto sinners, in which he pardons all their sins, accepts and accounts their persons righteous in his sight; not for anything wrought in them, or done by them, but only for the perfect obedience and full satisfaction of Christ, by God imputed to them, and received by faith alone.

# What Is the *Ground* of Our Justification?

## The Righteousness of Christ

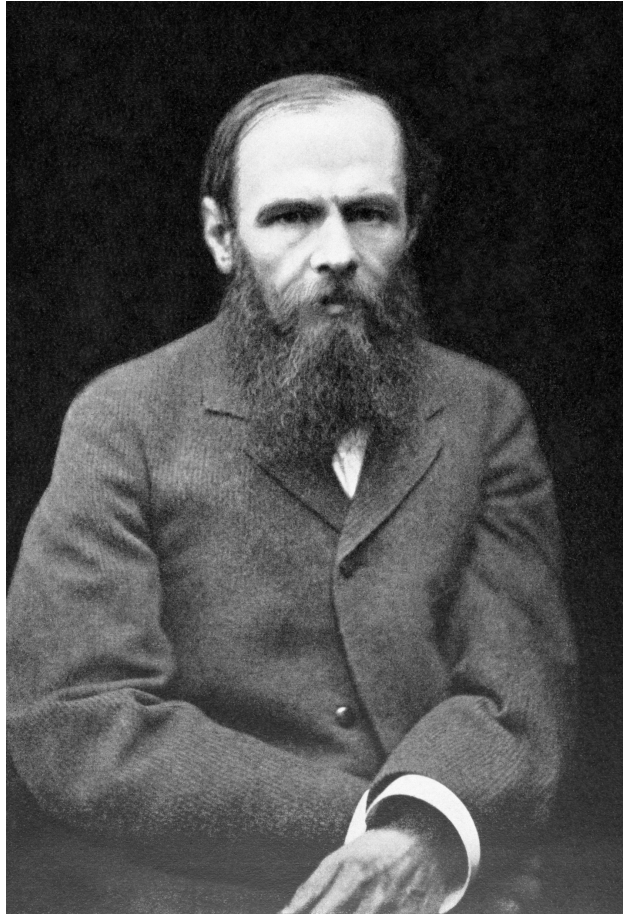
- 1. Active obedience:** Jesus obeyed the law. “For as through the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the one the many will be made righteous” (Rom. 5:19). Jesus satisfied all the demands of the Law in order to become our substitute on the cross.
- 2. Passive obedience:** Jesus endured the penalty for our sins. “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (II Cor. 5:21).

# Rock of Ages

Not the labors of my hands,  
Can fulfill Thy law's demands;  
Could my zeal no respite know,  
Could my tears forever flow,  
All for sin could not atone;  
Thou must save, and Thou alone.

- Augustus M. Toplady

# Fyodor Dostoyevsky



1821-1881

“My children, never forget what you have just heard. Have absolute faith in God and never despair of His pardon. I love you dearly, but my love is nothing compared with the love of God for all those He has created. Even if you should be so unhappy as to commit a crime in the course of your life, never despair of God. You are His children; humble yourselves before Him, as before your father, implore His pardon, and He will rejoice over your repentance, as a Father rejoiced over that of the *Prodigal Son*.”





# The Sandals of Readiness

- “Stand firm therefore... having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace” (Eph. 6:15, NASV).
- “Stand firm then... with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace” (NIV).



Caligae, Roman Military Boots

# Purpose of Roman Boots

- They equipped the soldier for long marches.
- They equipped him for a solid stance when he threw his spear, used his sword, and shielded himself against arrows, lances, and stones.
- They prevented his feet from sliding.
- They protected his feet against hidden spikes beneath the surface of the ground.
- They were not designed to facilitate running, e.g., in flight from the enemy.

# Analysis

- The translation is probably not “equipment” since this would be the only time in biblical or secular history that the Greek word would have this meaning.
- It could mean “readiness” in the sense of the act or the result of preparation.
- “Remind them to...**be ready** for every good deed” (Titus 3:1).
- “If a man cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, **prepared** for every good work” (II Tim. 2:21).

# Analysis

- “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” (I Pt. 3:15).
- Each one of these passages speaks of preparation for doing good works or defending the gospel against detractors.
- Note Eph. 2:10 – “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God ***prepared beforehand***, that we should walk in them.”



# Summary

- Ephesian 6:15 does not use “messenger” imagery.
- Paul is speaking about military equipment and about preparing our feet so that we will be able to “stand” and “resist.”
- Conclusion: our Greek word must be translated by a concept which expresses solidity, firmness, solid foundation.

# The Gospel of Peace

- Consider that Paul is speaking of a “gospel of peace” in the context of military imagery.
- “Now I Paul myself urge you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, - I who am meek when face to face with you, but bold toward you when absent! – I ask that when I am present, I may not be bold with the confidence with which I propose to be courageous against some, who regard us as if we walked according to the flesh, for the **weapons of our warfare** are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ” (II Cor. 10:1-5).

# The Gospel of Peace

- In the same context where Paul mentions the “meekness and gentleness of Christ,” he also speaks of the “weapons of warfare.”
- The gospel of peace can only refer to the peace that was made by Christ and proclaimed by Him as described in Eph. 2:13-18.
- “But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our **peace**, who made both groups into one, and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing **peace**, and might



# The Gospel of Peace

reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. And He came and preached **peace** to you who were far away, and **peace** to those who were near; for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father” (Eph. 2:13-18).

- It is not a victory of Christians inside God’s Kingdom over those outside the Kingdom that makes us “steadfast.” Rather, we are given strength to resist non-human, demonic attacks as the gospel of peace draws together those who are “far away” and those who are “near.”

# Consider Your Feet

- You may be tempted to feel that your feet are comparatively unimportant.
- If you get wounded in your feet, or if you slip and fall in battle, you will be an easy target for your enemy.
- In a real sense, everything you do in life depends upon the steadfastness and security of your feet. If you “lose your feet” you are out of the battle.

# Five Principles

- The Principle of Mobility
- The Principle of Stance
- The Principle of Steadfastness
- The Principle of Protection
- The Principle of Assurance
- The Principle of Balance

# John Calvin

“The effect of the gospel is that we should lay aside every hindrance and be prepared both for journey and for battle. By nature we are slow and sluggish. Moreover, a rough road and many obstacles delay us, and we are discouraged by the smallest opposition. On these accounts, Paul holds out the **gospel** as the best instrument for undertaking and performing the expedition.”