

4-The Gospel of Peace

7/15/22

INTRO:

I. → **Ephesians 6:13-16**

*Therefore 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**.*

→ 14 **Stand firm** then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

II. Roman soldiers' sandals called "caligae", soldiers called "caligati"

III. [GOLF SHOES FOR BETTER TRACTION](#)

IV. **1 Peter 3:13-17**

13 Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? 14 But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." 15 But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord.

→ **Always be prepared** to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the **reason for the hope** that you have. But do this with **gentleness and respect**, 16 keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

V. "Readiness to announce the good news of peace"

VI. You may advance and be absolutely irresistible, if you make for the enemy's weak points; you may retire and be safe from pursuit if your movements are more rapid than those of the enemy.—*Sun Tzu*

BODY:

I. **Readiness of the Gospel**

*Always be **prepared** to give an answer to everyone who asks you*
Grk (*hétoimos*) prepared, ready

- A. The best time to witness is when they ask the questions.
- 1) **Romans 10:14-15**
And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" (Isa 52:7)
 - 2) **MARS BLACKMAN—IT'S GOTTA BE THE SHOES**
- B. If we are not prepared the moment can pass us by.
- 1) **Ephesians 5:15**
Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.
 - 2) **PLAYER ASKING WHY I WAS SO HAPPY**

II. Reason of the Gospel

To give the **reason** for the hope that you have

- A. Defensiveness comes from our own doubt and insecurity.
- 1) **2 Timothy 2:15**
Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.
 - 2) **THE WESLEYAN QUADRALATERAL**
Tradition, experience, reason, Scripture
- B. Faith never requires us to lose our sense of reason.
- 1) **Acts 26:25-26 (Before Festus and Agrippa)**
"I am not insane, most excellent Festus," Paul replied. "What I am saying is true and reasonable. The king is familiar with these things, and I can speak freely to him.
 - 2) Grk (*apología*) reason, explanation, defense
 - 3) **ARISTOTLE'S MODES OF PERSUASION**
Ethos—appeal to the credibility of the presenter
Pathos—appeal to the emotions and values
Logos—appeal to the logic and reason of the topic

Kairos—appeal to the timeliness and context

III. **Respect of the Gospel**

But do this with gentleness and respect

A. It is not about winning an argument, but winning a life.

1) **2 Timothy 2:24-25**

And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth.

2) **STUDENT LEADING HIS FRIEND TO THE LORD**

B. If it doesn't sound like good news we are not saying it right.

1) **Titus 3:1-2**

Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone.

2) **BEAT YOUR SWORD BACK INTO A PLOWSHARE**

OTHER SCRIPTURES:

James 3:17-18

But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.