

Worship on May 31, 2020

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Announcements:

. This recording is for the worship of Sunday, May 31 2020. God may fill your life with safety and health. May God fill this worship with his grace and love.

. Curbside meeting – we will meet and chat outside our church building in bench area near the side doors. If we can arrange the time between 12-2 on Tuesdays and Fridays, we will meet in person. Please wear facemask and let us try to keep the safe distance. To meet me, please email me or phone me to make the appointment. revsoonghuh@hotmail.com / 647-208-5381.

. Thank you for the offerings dropped off at the office door and through Pre-Authorized Remittance. (PAR) – and you can check out website to start giving to the LORD.

. This is the 5th sermon of the series called The Armour of God. With *the shoes for the gospel of peace* in the Armour of God, let us continue to stand strong in the Lord

Let us worship God with singing!

SONG –389 – breathe on me, breath of God

Prayer for worship

Heavenly Father, we need you. When you created Adam, you breathed your breath into his nostril. He became the living being with your breath. Breathe on us, so we may experience your life in our lives. As we worship you through this online worship, let your Holy Spirit become active again in our hearts. Through this worship, we pray that we make sure that you are our LORD again. Be gloried and be worshipped. And be pleased through our lives. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-18

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power.

11 Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

13 Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

14 Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness.

15 *As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace.*

16 With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

17 Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

18 Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.

This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God.

Sermon : The shoes for the gospel of peace

In the book of Acts, toward the end, Paul was inspired by the Holy Spirit. Acts 20:22,

“And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to

me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardship are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace." Although there will be suffering and all kinds of pains and dangers of death, Paul did not hesitate going to Jerusalem to proclaim the gospel of God's grace. He WENT no matter what. He HAD the feet of the readiness with the gospel. Today's scripture is written by Paul, who actually went to Jerusalem where he will suffer because of the gospel. Paul not only wrote about the armour of God, but also, he equipped himself with the armour of God. With the truth as his foundation of his heart, the righteousness with the deeds in his life, and with his feet ready to go anywhere for God's calling. He was ready to carry out God's grace and love. Because he found his protection, power and strength in God, his steps were sure, unshakable, and firm. For him, the gospel of Jesus Christ for himself and to others meant more than his comfort, his fame, and even than his life. That's why he could walk his faith journey without hesitation in spite of the warnings of the Holy Spirit.

Today, we will focus on the walk that we will walk in faith. For ancient soldiers, imagine what kinds of terrains they had to walk. OR imagine that we are walking around with our bare feet. OR Imagine we are walking to church from our home. Not taking our cars, no bicycle, but walking with our own bare feet. Would it be a pleasant experience? We will have to walk on some unpaved roads, some deadly hot asphalt, some dusty, rocky, grassy and wet areas. How would we feel when we walk with our bare feet? There are so many potential dangers that can hurt our feet. And, when we walk on our bare feet, they can easily get tired and become sore. So, we don't want to walk around with our bare feet.

With this in mind, think about ancient soldiers. From their hometown to the battle field, they had to march for days, sometimes months. Their hearts were filled with the Holy Spirit, and their attitudes and lives were full of righteousness. They had strong shields, helmets, and swords. But, when they don't have proper shoes, what will happen? Their feet will get tired. They won't be able to walk anymore. Now, they have to rest. They won't be able to fight anymore, not because of the inadequate preparation of their armours, but because of their sore feet. Historians tell that sometimes the battles have been lost because of inadequate footwear. Swords and helmets lose their effectiveness if the soldiers were footsore. Every step will be drudge. When you take a walk, if a small tiny stone chip happens to be in your shoe, how bothersome it is! So, having a proper footwear is very important for those who are walking.

Also, in battle fields, there might be some slippery areas. Walking with God is not always walking on the well-paved highways or well-maintained trails. There are times we have to walk on some slippery roads, muddy roads, rocky roads, and with some other difficult roads to walk. In these cases, what are we gonna do? Stop walking with God? No..!! We will still keep walking with God. We still need to stand strong. But, it is harder to stand firm and strong with our bare feet. But, if we have well prepared footwear, it will become easier to overcome the difficulties. For ancient soldiers, on their shoes, they had hobnails. It's some spikes on the bottom of their shoes so that they could stand more firmly on slippery and difficult terrains.

The shoes were important because shoes protected the feet. Also, shoes provided some support, so that soldiers not to fall down, but to stand firm. Shoes provide us the protection that our feet need and the support for us to stand firm.

And Paul says that we need shoes with the readiness with the gospel of peace. Someone might ask, “Are there different kinds of gospels other than the gospel of peace?” In fact, there are. The Bible mentions the gospel of the kingdom of God, the gospel of grace, the gospel of peace, the gospel of Jesus Christ. Basically, gospel means the good news. So, here, in Ephesians, Paul is talking about the good news about peace. Then, what kind of peace is he talking about?

Ephesians was written to two kinds of people. In other words, peace was proclaimed to two different people. The first was the Gentiles, who were “far-off” and the second was the Jews who were “near”. The peace and harmony became the reality when they were reconciled to each other through Christ Jesus. *Ephesians 2:15 says this, “His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace.”* Therefore, the peace is already established. So, now, it's time to testify the good news of the peace that broke the wall between two enemies, the Gentiles and the Jews. In addition, this is the peace which broke the wall between our Father God and us through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Because of our sins, we were separated from God. There was a big gulp between God and us. There was a huge wall between God and us. But, Jesus came and removed the wall by taking our sins away. So, the gospel of peace is both ways. Vertically, it's God and us. And horizontally, it's among us, people like the Gentiles and the Jews. It is the inner-heart-peace produced by the gospel that gives the Christian warriors their readiness for combat. This gospel of peace is our protection for each other.

Out of six pieces of the armour of God, this one, the shoes are in pairs. One shoe cannot do anything. This can't provide any support the body needs. There should be two shoes to give proper power and support. These two shoes must make peace each other. It's very important for us to make peace with God and with each other. We are not going to the battle without our fellow soldiers, right? At the same time, we are not walking our faith journey alone. We are

walking our faith journey with God. So, we must have the peace with God and others. One shoe is God, and the other one is us. One shoe is others, and the other is us. One shoe is your spouse and the other pair is you. Both ways – vertical-ways and side-ways – like the cross.

Paul says, okay, good... Jesus Christ has provided the peace already. So, be ready with the good news about the peace you have. In summary, the readiness means this: The readiness is the stability. Stability with the gospel of peace – we have the firm foundation of truth. We are one in truth. We are together in truth. We are different than this culture which cannot provide us security and stability. So, in the gospel of peace of Jesus Christ, stand firm with stability.

The readiness, also, is balance. Balance with the gospel of peace – be at peace with God and others. *Psalm 51:9, "Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity."* Remove all the things that block the relationship between you and me. Psalmist longed to be at peace with God. Also, in *Matthew 5:23-24, "if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave you gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother, then come and offer your gift."* We should maintain the peace we have between God and others because it cost the life of Jesus Christ.

And lastly, the readiness is mobility. We are ready to move. We were told to stand firm. But, why? It's because to be ready to move when needed. We talked about the spikes on the bottom of the shoes. It gives the support, but also it helps us to walk or run with confidence. Have you seen any soccer shoes? There are big spikes on the bottom, so the soccer players don't fall down on slippery grassy ground. Paul urges us to stand strong, so that we are ready to go. Also, like Paul in the Book of Acts, when we are equipped with the amour of God, we should be able to go whether there is a comfortable path or difficult path.

Sisters and Brothers in Jesus Christ, I hope and pray that you wear a proper footwear so that your faith journey with God can be continued with the stability comes from the foundation of truth, with the balance in the relationship with God and people, and with the mobility and obedience to God. In our lives, most of the time, we are not going to experience the circumstances of life-threatening events and locking down in prison like Paul's. However, we are facing confusions, chaos, and value dilutions – watering down the truth. Let us make sure the meaning of the peace we received from God and let us hold fast. Let us stand strong with our feet ready. Jesus walked the way he didn't have to. But he chose to walk because of the love for us.

Isaiah 53:4-5, "Surely, he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed."

Let us pray.

God of peace and God of love, thank you for your love for us and thank you for restoring the peace we have with you and with others. Lord God, we pray to equip us with strong and sturdy footwear so that we can take our stand strong, so that we can firmly maintain the peace you provided us. Loving God, shoes come in pairs. That is the problem for us. We are connected to you and to others. But sometimes, it's hard to stay connected because of our own selfishness, sinful desires, and our weaknesses. As we continue this sermon series, Lord, equip us with the full armour of God, so that we can stand strong with faith. And like the feet of Jesus or like the steps of Paul's, give us longing hearts to follow you and to obey our own callings from you whether it takes away our comfort zones. Give us courage to trust your calling and your almighty power. With the feet ready with your support, help us to live lives that please you, alone. Be lifted and be glorified through our lives.

Prayer for the people

Gracious and loving Father God, we thank you for this opportunity to worship you together. We thank you for the community we have here, although we cannot gather physically. As we pray

this time, please empower us with your Holy Spirit and help us to serve others and pray for others in this community, in this area, in this country, and in this world you created.

First of all, we pray for this church community. There are many who are suffering because of this coronavirus. In our hearts and bodies and minds, Lord, please come in and stay with us. Please be with us and take good care of us. Give us strength to carry out our daily routines. As the weather gets warmer and hotter, it is harder to stay home. Give us wisdom to stay well. In this Pandemic, protect us from this disease. We pray for the sick. Place your healing hands upon them and please heal them. Help them recover. We pray for the people who are suffering from their life's hardship. Be with them. Cry with them and share pains with them. Let them know that you are holding their hands and you are walking with them. With your presence, fill their hearts with your peace and love. It has been so long that we haven't gathered in our church building. Many are longing to be together. Help this Pandemic end soon.

We pray for the leaders of the country. Let them show the good examples so we may exercise the proper safety rules. Give them humble hearts so they may ask you for your grace and mercy. And give wisdom and insight to the people who are trying to develop vaccine. You are the LORD of all. You are the Creator. Let all people confess as they study more and try to find out about this disease. Through this difficult time, show your mighty power and greatness to the whole world.

And we are praying for the next generation. Heavenly Father, bring their hearts back to you again. Young generation is educated with values opposite to your teachings. They deny the Absolute truth in you. Lord, what can we do? What do we have to do? We believe you are in control of this whole world and you are going to protect your church, your people. But, so many people seem to be leaving you these days. The world seems to be against you these days. The next generation is going to lose chance to learn about you. Please raise your people who will stand up with your truth, from churches, from schools, from politicians, and from every area of our lives.

Heavenly Father, there are still people who are persecuted around the world because of their faith in you. Give them adequate footwear and equip them with your armour and let them stand strong. Protect them safely and purify our faith as we listen to the news about them. And help us to pray for them.

We pray for your presence each day we live and your guidance for each step we make through the week. Be with us and guide our every step. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

Song – **One Voice**

Benediction

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, And the Love of God, And the intimate fellowship of the Holy Spirit, Be with us all, now and always. Amen.

Ponder Upon Questions:

1. How is the gospel protecting me?
2. Am I making harmony within myself, i.e., how am I getting along with the truth in me?
3. How can I be stable, balanced, and ready to go with the truth in God?