

This week we are looking at foot ware, which may seem a bit odd but all will become clear.

Depending on which Bible translation one has this verse may or may not actually mention a specific type of foot gear. Some translations simply say 'with your feet shod with etc.'. However, putting the verse into it's historical context Paul is referring to sandals, specifically those worn by Roman soldiers.

These 'Caligulae' are the precursors of the much maligned hobnail boot. The soles were made of layers of leather and had metal studs to improve both grip and length of use. They partially covered the top of the foot and were affixed by leather thongs tied about the calf.

As a child Emperor Gaius Ceasar Germanicus, successor to Tiberius, was given the nickname 'little boots' [calligula] by his father's soldiers when on campaign against the Germanic tribes on the Rhine.

Therefore, these boots/sandals/whatever you call them would have been as distinctive on a legionnaire as his helmet, shield or other item of equipment, marking them out, even if not in uniform, as obviously a soldier.

We will explore the 'Why' Paul used shoes in the questions, but just imagine the sound of a Centurion or Legion marching four abreast down a paved Roman road and you begin to understand why, often, Rome didn't need to fight in order to conquer.

### **Read Ephesians 6:13-17**

1. The 'full armour of God' Paul talks of is clearly modelled on the equipment of a Roman soldier. If you were to modernise this passage, what description would you choose? Why?
2. The N.I.V. says; 'feet fitted with readiness'. Are you ready to share the Gospel? How, or why not?

3. Matthew 5:44-45 says; '*But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous*'. What do you understand that to mean?
4. The sandals of a legionnaire were simple, sound and straightforward. How can you relate these characteristics to the sharing of the gospel?
5. Which areas of your faith do you find challenging either to do regularly or that you feel, perhaps, uncomfortable sharing with others? How could others help you?
6. When it comes to praying for people to come to faith in Jesus, do you think it is a battle? In what way does this influence how you pray for people?
7. Society has changed and the needs of others seems greater in this current time. What can you do to make things better? What Bible passages give us examples to adopt and/or follow?
8. Read verses 10 and 11 again, is this a helpful instruction or simply rhetoric? Why?
9. Just taking 'a stand' [Vv 13] may not be an option anymore [a wartime poster said; 'they also serve who only stand and wait']. What positive action can and should we take as individuals and as a church to promote the Kingdom of God?

## Prayer Points

Pray for those who have been bereaved, either recently or long ago. Also pray for those who are unable to get out for our Sunday services.

Thank God for the partnerships BMS has established with the Baptist Convention of Sierra Leone and the New Harvest Development Office, who are training more church leaders in Church and Community Mobilisation.

## Sermon Notes



# BIBLE STUDY

March 16<sup>th</sup> 2025

## The Armour of God: The Sandals of Readiness

As we read in our series on Daniel last year, an unseen battle is going on around us in the spiritual realm. In Paul's letter we see that God has provided everything we need to stand firm and resist evil, but we are called to be actively aware of both the struggle and the resources available.

In Ephesians 6 the apostle Paul gives us the clearest description anywhere in Scripture of believers' resources for the spiritual battle. He vividly describes them as armour, which we must repeatedly take up in prayerful reliance on God.

If you would like to join a Connect Group, please contact the church office 01424 730001