**November 18, 2018 “Having Shod Your Feet” Ephesians 6:15**

Today we are going to continue with our study on “putting on the full armor of God”. Whenever we discuss “spiritual warfare” I think there can be a tendency to poo-poo the issue and say this is something some fringe group has come up with to draw the crazies into their camp. I also think to some extent that is true. I have known people who see the devil behind every tree and bush. While still others, think any discussion about the spiritual warfare that is raging all around us is a waste of time.

I only have a couple of questions for both camps and it is this one, “Why did God deem it necessary to include this passage of Scripture?” Second question: Did He intend that we either hyperventilate on it or ignore it all together? Does not the Word of God tell us that “all Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work”? Does not the Word of God instruct us to “be of sober spirit, be on the alert”. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour”.

I would like to take just a few minutes and show the spiritual war that is raging all around us today.

Galatians 5:19-21

Note:

* Immorality, impurity, sensuality… every one of these items has to do with sexuality of some sort or another. The latest statics I read of this week are 78 to 81 million views every day. How many people today choose sexual relations outside of marriage? 18 million adults now live with someone to whom they are not married. Nearly 2 million of those are over the age of 50
* Idolatry… Arch of Baal was erected in October, 2018 in Washington D.C. to celebrate global cultural heritage. It was erected in such a way as to view the capital of the U. S. through the arch. A group of so-called witches came together to pronounce a curse on the latest Supreme Court Justice. Witchcraft is supposedly one the fastest growing “religions” in America today.
* Sorcery… Greek word is “pharmekia” the word for drugs. We hear about the opioid epidemic but what about the 50+ million people who are on some type of psychotropic drug? 1 in every 6 people you meet are on some type of mood-altering drug.
* Enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, and dissentions… just look at all the groups that turn to violence if they do not get their way…
* Factions… I think within the so-called church of today this is one of the greatest issues. NAE… National Associations of Evangelicals has embraced global warming and is calling for America to destroy her nuclear arsenal. NAR… new apostolic reformation… seeks to establish a fifth house in Christendom which is distinct from Catholicism, Protestantism, Eastern and Oriental Orthodoxy… came primarily of the Charismatic movement and boasts of nearly 9 million adherents. Todd Bentley who is supposedly a “faith healer” has kicked sick people in order to heal them. Christians have embraced “The Shack” and “Jesus Calling” books along with a so-called Bible named “The Message” which is anything but the message of the Cross.

On and on it goes and so when someone “poo-poos” or downplays the mention of a spiritual war, I hope you will look around you with open eyes and see the reality surrounding all of us. II Corinthians 2:11… “for we are not ignorant of his schemes”

1. Having your feet shod
	1. Shoes at one time were for protecting your feet
		1. Now they are a fashion statement
			1. Illustration: Boot Barn
				1. Must have been 500 different types of boots
	2. Importance of feet
		1. Uncle John… World War II in Fiji Islands worried about what was called “jungle rot” … put powder on your feet and clean socks every day
		2. Vietnam… take care of your feet… Punji stakes
	3. Why are they so important?
		1. If you cannot stand you cannot fight
			1. Lose all mobility either to take the fight to the enemy or to flee if necessary
2. Misinterpretation of this passage
	1. Isaiah 52:7… how beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news
		1. While this is true and the Gospel must be preached to the whole world
		2. That is not what this passage is teaching
	2. We must remain true to the text as it is written
		1. Note
			1. Ephesians 6:11… Stand firm
			2. Ephesians 6:13… Stand firm
			3. Ephesians 6:14… Stand firm
		2. This entire passage is not about evangelism
			1. It is about conflict against the schemes of the devil
			2. This passage is telling us to “stand our ground”
			3. With what?
3. The Gospel of peace
	1. Romans 5:1
		1. We have what?
		2. Peace with God
			1. II Corinthians 5:21
			2. Why is this so important for us to understand?
			3. Matthew 12:30… he who is not for Me is against Me
				1. Two camps

For or against

Enemy of God or friend of God?

1. What have we learned so far?
	1. If I am to win this fight, I have to be committed to the battle
		1. Put on the belt of truth
	2. I have been called to live a separated life
		1. Do I seek after holiness or do I want to do just enough so I can be somewhat accepted in Christian circles?
		2. Put on the breastplate of righteousness
	3. Am I fully confident of what Christ has done or do I doubt all the time?
		1. Have your feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace