

IMPACT

I **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own under-
standing; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: “Ephesians 6:14-15 “Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and **having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace...**”

Quote: “When James Calvert went out as a missionary to the cannibals of the Fiji Islands, the ship captain tried to turn him back, saying, ‘You will lose your life and the lives of those with you if you go among such savages.’ To that, Calvert replied, ‘We died before we came here.’” (Galatians 2:20; II Corinthians 5:15)

The Roman soldier’s sandals had thick soles studded with nails to provide stability during combat and also protection against traps designed to disable him. *For the soldier of Christ*, the gospel is not only the means through which God grants eternal life, *it is the good news that offers stability to our present lives on a daily basis.* No matter what our temporary circumstances may be, God has redeemed us from the penalty of sin, rescues us from the power of sin and will one day deliver us from the very presence of sin! The Gospel of peace is to be the foundation upon which we stand and live a “cross-centered life” of CONFIDENCE in Christ’s victory over sin and the grave. We stand fast, let come what may. Ultimate victory is ours in Christ!

Paul reminded Timothy, “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in *the sufferings for the gospel* according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought *life and immortality to light through the gospel*, to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for *I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.*” “That day” is a reference to the coming of Christ—the blessed hope of the believer who will be rewarded for investing time, talent and treasure in the work of God’s kingdom!¹

As spiritual warfare rages around us, we are eternally secure! We can do all things through Christ, “the originator and captain” of our salvation, who is working all things together for our good!² As we trust and obey, we can have the same confidence in the glorious gospel of the kingdom of God as the Apostle Paul who wrote, “The Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!”³

“The Sandals of the Gospel of Peace”

Though sons of earth would buffet me and try my soul to tears, I’ll bask within that blessed Light that scatters darkest fears. When fleshly hosts may gather ‘round, and wars against me rise, I’ll rest with confidence in God, and claim peace as my prize. Dear Lord, make clear faith’s wistful⁴ eyes. Thy beauty I would see. I tremble at the purging touch that draws Thine own to Thee. Yet, sheltered in protective grace, I’ll worship all my days. While heart and breath shall ‘hold’ life fast, I’ll joyfully sing praise! Oh, Abba, Father, hear my cry! Thy blessed mercy shed. When Thou didst bid me seek Thy face, twas to Thine arms I fled. If love from earth’s frailties forsakes, be Thou my help and stay. Lord, lead me in Thy path so plain, my hand in Thine always. Though oft’ I faint from life’s long toil towards death’s awaiting door, *fresh hope* I found believing in The goodness of my Lord. Unlike blind pris’ners of the flesh⁵—grim strangers to God’s grace—I’ll wait, secure within His bonds, for strength to run life’s race. From Psalm 27

¹ II Timothy 1:12; Philippians 1:6; I Corinthians 3:13; II Corinthians 5:10; I Peter 1:5 ² Philippians 4:13; Hebrews 2:10; Romans 8:28-39 ³ II Timothy 4:16-18 ⁴ Wistful: full of yearning or desire tinged with melancholy ⁵ II Timothy 4:3-4