

the soldier's breastplate, covers this weakest and most vital part. If the enemy hurls our sin upon us, we reply, "Yes, it is true, but it is God that justifieth—I am made the righteousness of God in Him." The blow falls upon our breastplate, and we are unmoved.

3. *And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.* The shoes of the soldiers were his preparation for the march. They were so made as to protect the feet and lower limbs, that he might move with ease and safety over all kinds of ground. Idleness is a weakness in the soldier. He is safest when moving. This is true of the Christian. Though he is to "stand in the evil day," he is not to be still. He is to be ever going. As a preparation for this, he is put in charge of the "good tidings of peace," to carry to the world. It is not the experience of peace which constitutes this part of the armor, but the gospel of peace—the preparation for its proclamation. It is that which makes the evangelist and the missionary. To hold our ground is not enough. We are strongest against the enemy when nerved up for the attack, or aggressive achievement. We are best fortified in faith and truth when we are spreading it. Therefore we are to strengthen ourselves against the enemy, by being heralds of the gospel of peace.

4. *Above all, taking the shield of faith.* The word used here for "shield" is not the one which means the small round shield, but the large one, which covers almost the entire person. It is thus "above (or better, 'over') all," as it covers and fortifies and protects all the rest. It was carried on the left arm, and could be turned in the direction from which the darts of the enemy came. This is faith, "the conviction of things not seen." If we only