



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

# Gospel Shoes for Great Conflict, not Great Commission

Bible Reading: Matt. 28:19-20; Eph. 6:10-15

[Watch LIVESTREAM here at 10am](#)

[Join our post-sermon discussion on Zoom at 11am](#)

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## The Great Commission (Mt. 28:19-20) & the Great Conflict (Eph. 6:10-18)

A. 'Great Commission' in Matthew: "Go..." (Mt. 28:19-20)

B. 'Great Conflict' in Ephesians: "Stand..." (Eph. 6:10-12)

## Is Eph. 6:15 Paul's 'Great Commission'?

"Ephesians chapter 6 is Paul's 'Great Commission'"—Peter O'Brien

A. Scripture Translation involves Interpretation

1. "Shod your feet in preparation {to face the enemy...the readiness produced by} the gospel of peace." (Eph. 6:15 AMPC.)
2. "As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace." (Eph. 6:15 NRSV)

B. Do 'Gospel Shoes' imply evangelism?

1. "The gospel-armor shoes...should make the believers 'ready to proclaim the gospel of peace'."—Kevin DeYoung
2. "Eph 6:15...is best understood as a Pauline exhortation to evangelistic readiness."—Robert Plummer

- C. “Ephesians...6 is Paul’s ‘Great Commission’”—Peter O’Brien
- D. NT never uses Military Metaphors for the Church’s Evangelism.
  1. “In contrast to some well-meant contemporary missions rhetoric—the New Testament does not contain military metaphors in its description of the evangelistic & missionary task of the church.”—Prof. V-M. Karkkainen

## Eph. 6:15: Not Paul’s Great Commission, but the ‘Great Conflict’

- A. Not ‘ready’ to Evangelize, but ‘ready’ for Combat, for War
  1. Eph. 6:15 “is...not...readiness to proclaim the gospel...but...for combat & for standing...ready for war.”—Andrew Lincoln
- B. “Feet to Go” (Is. 52:7) vs. “Feet to Stand” (Eph. 6:15)
  1. “The context in Eph. 6:15 is about standing firm & defending...against the attacks of the enemy...Paul’s emphasis... is not evangelizing the lost, but defending the church & oneself against the attacks of Satan.”—Steven J. Cole
- C. “Readiness” or “Firm Foundation” of the Gospel?
  1. “Having shod your feet with the firm foundation of the gospel of peace.” (Eph. 6:15 Rcv.)
- D. Paradox: ‘Gospel of Peace’ is Armor for War (Eph. 6:15; Rom. 16:15)
  1. A similar ‘paradox’ —“The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.” (Rom. 16:15)

## ‘Paul never explicitly charges his churches to evangelize’

- A. “Paul never assigns the task of evangelism...to the local Christian community”—E. Schnabel
  1. Paul’s “letters...do not include appeals to be active in mission & evangelism.”—E. Schnabel
  2. “There is no conclusive...evidence that Paul...expects congregational evangelism”—Bo Young Kang
- B. Evangelism the task of Gospel Heralds (apostles, evangelists)

## The Church’s Role: ‘Becoming the Gospel’ (Phil. 1:27; 2 Cor. 5:21)

- A. “The ekklesia [church]...is called...become the gospel”—Michael Gorman
- B. “We understand mission too narrowly...as something we do as opposed to something we are”—Scot McKnight

## Paul’s Gospel Mission to (both) Christians & non-Christians

- A. Paul’s Mission—much more than Evangelism
- B. Paul “fulfilled the Gospel” (Rom. 15:19)
- C. Paul sought the salvation of “potential and previous converts alike”—Michael Barram (1 Cor. 9:22; 10:32-33)

## Phil. 2:16: “holding forth” or “holding (clinging) to” the Word of Life? (Phil. 2:16)

- A. “Holding forth...” or “Holding (clinging) to the word of life” (Phil. 2:16)?
- B. “Live...worthy of the Gospel...Contend for...the Gospel”—Evangelism? (Phil. 1:27)
  1. “Proponents of the evangelistic interpretation of [Phil. 1:27-30] have little exegetical ground. Rather, Paul’s emphasis is laid on the Philippians’ life in conformity with...their Lord...”—Bo Young Kang