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We Love Shoes

By Teresa Hampton

Let's talk shoes. We love them. It's a fact. Just look in our closets! We spend a lot of time searching for the right shoe. How does it feel? Better yet, how does it look? Some even say a person can be described by the shoes they wear.

There are, of course, slippers. They feel very, very good. There are loafers, good for just about any occasion. They're certainly good for loafing around. And there are tennis shoes, great for whatever you're playing. There are also high heels, making us feel several inches taller. Of course, we're more apt to fall in them. Let's not forget dress shoes. We don't usually wear them except on special occasions, but they occupy a cozy place in our closet, always ready when we want to look good. And then finally, there are work shoes. When we're ready to roll up our pant legs and get busy, they're perfectly suited.

It makes me wonder. If shoes described our religion, what kind of shoes would we be? Scripture warns about having a 'slippers' kind of religion. Relying on what feels good, or what soothes our itching ears can bring destruction (2 Tim 4:3). A 'loafers' religion makes us idle, which leads to gossip and turns us into busybodies, saying what we ought not (1 Tim. 5:13). Scripture describes the unfortunate results of the Israelite's 'tennis shoe' religion. They fell into trouble, when they chose to play instead of obey (Ex. 32:6). Nebuchadnezzar showed us the pitfall (pardon the pun) of a 'high heels' religion (Daniel 5:20). And let's not forget the 'dress shoe' religion portrayed by the Pharisees, as they stood on the street corners and prayed (Matthew 6:5).

What kind of shoe should describe the Christian? It is the 'work shoe,' because "*we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them*" (Ephesians 2:10). We're perfectly suited. So, let us roll up our pant legs, and be ready for every good work!

Today's bonus: see next page

Today's verse: "*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.*" 1 Corinthians 15:58

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In scripture, there were those who *spoke* of shoes:

Deut. 33:25 - Moses - blessing on the tribe of Asher, *“Your sandals shall be of iron and bronze.”*

John 1:27 - John the Baptizer, speaking of Christ. *“It is he who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose.”*

There were those who *took off* their shoes:

Exodus 3:5 - A sign of reverence in the presence of God - *“Take off your shoes, for you are standing on holy ground.”*

Joshua 5:15 - A sign of reverence in the presence of God - *“Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy.”*

Ruth 4:7-8 - The sign of Ruth’s redeeming by Boaz. *“Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging to confirm anything; one man took off his sandal and gave it to the other.”*

And, there were those who *put on* shoes:

Exodus 12:11 - To have the Israelites ready so they could leave Egypt in haste - *“You shall eat [the Passover] with ...your sandals on your feet.”*

Luke 15:22 - A father’s love for the returning prodigal son - *“Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet.”*