



Take Off Your Shoes

A Church Service Is Closest To Heaven On Earth

1. A refuge, an oasis of faith in a desert of unbelief.
2. Our prepared table in the presence of our enemies.
3. Worship is like heaven's, with rejoicing and refreshing.
4. The presence of the Holy Spirit is tangible.
5. A place where there should be fullness of joy.
6. The greatest presence of angels.

"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" 2 Corinthians 3:17

The Ground Was Cursed When Adam Sinned

"Then to Adam He said, 'Because you have heeded the voice of your wife and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying "You shall not eat of it": Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life.'" Genesis 3:17

1. Adam's sin cursed himself, Eve, Satan, the ground, and all that came from the ground.
2. The ground produced thorns, weeds, and poisonous plants.
3. Everything made of dust was cursed, including animals and man himself.
4. We who are redeemed have a new spirit and a soul to be renewed, but still have a body made from the ground that remains cursed.
5. Jesus redeemed the earth at the same time He redeemed mankind, at the cross.
"His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground." Luke 22:44
 - a. The Church will gain a redeemed spiritual body and lose their cursed natural body at the rapture.
 - b. Until then, we have a decaying, temporary body.
 - c. The earth will enter its eternal redemption from the curse of Adam at the second coming of Jesus.
6. Our redemption, like shoe soles, put a temporary barrier between the feet of the redeemed and the cursed earth.

What Are Our Shoe Soles?

1. The Lord's presence temporarily removed the curse from the ground where He was standing.

a. Moses at the burning bush.

“Then He said, ‘Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand in holy ground.’” Exodus 3:5

b. Joshua before the battle of Jericho.

“Then the commander of the Lord’s army said to Joshua, ‘Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy.’ And Joshua did so.” Joshua 5:15

c. The local church service today.

“And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.” Acts 4:31

2. In the New Testament, we are not told to remove our shoes in the presence of the Holy Spirit.
 - a. It has been done at salvation, in Christ, for us. God sees Satan as already under the feet of the Church.
 - b. Our salvation includes our shoe soles, which stand over Satan and his kingdom.
3. Removing our shoes is only symbolic of this place of blessing in the presence of the Lord.
4. Today the presence of the Lord is in the place where believers assemble, the local church.
 - a. We are not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together because it will become a habit.
 - b. We are not only *in* the assembly of the upright, but we *are* the assembly of the upright.
 - c. We are the Church attending church.
 - d. No wonder it should be easy to be healed of sickness and forgiven of sins in church. The curse is just not present where the Spirit of the Lord is.

“Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.” James 5:14-15
 - e. We are blessed anywhere we go and have authority over Satan and demons in our lives.
 - f. But the local church is a special place of blessing with the gathering of all the saints of God.

Satan’s Place In The New Testament

“And He (the Father) put all things under His (Jesus’) feet and gave Him to be head over all things to the church.” Ephesians 1:22

1. We stand on the curser and above the cursed ground.
2. After being born again, we have beautiful, lovely feet.
3. Our feet are protected by the Gospel, which is the shoe soles of our armor (Ephesians 6:15, Isaiah 52:7).
4. Christ's feet are the bottom, lowest point of the Church. Beneath our feet is the top of Satan's kingdom.