

Make No Provision for the Flesh

➤ = next PowerPoint slide

➤ Intro:

- Noah, provision to survive the flood: ark, food, water, clothing, bedding, cooking, other supplies
- Noah had to make provision to survive the flood, as God commanded
- we too make provision for certain things: hurricane, trip, school and work, go to church, etc.
- today's lesson about something God commands us NOT to make provision for

➤ Make no provision for the flesh (lust) – lesson idea, comments Mike Matthews recently made in class

- **Rom. 13:14** make no provision for the flesh (lust)
 - **provision:** denotes forethought, providential care, make provision for a thing – Noah
 - **flesh:** the sinful things of man, rather than the righteous things of God
 - **lusts:** are strong desires toward sinful things
 - **1 Jn. 2:15-16** not love world: lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, boastful pride of life

➤ - if we don't make provision (forethought, arrangement to fulfill) for the flesh and lust, it's unlikely that we'll sin

- **Ja. 1:13-15** lust precedes sin
 - eliminate lust, eliminate sin – except for occasional accidents, and some sins of ignorance

- illus.: a man whose mind was on stealing rather than earning an honest living

- Zig Ziglar tells of a thief, a man named Emmanuel Nenger.
- The year is 1887. The scene is a small neighborhood grocery store.
- Mr. Nenger is buying some turnip greens. He gives the clerk a \$20 bill.
- As the clerk begins to put the money in the cash drawer to give Mr. Nenger his change, she notices some of the ink from the \$20 bill is coming off on her fingers which are damp from the turnip greens. She looks at Mr. Nenger, a man she has known for years. She looks at the smudged bill. This man is a trusted friend; she has known him all her life; he can't be a counterfeiter. She gives Mr. Nenger his change, and he leaves the store.
- But \$20 is a lot of money in 1887, and eventually the clerk calls the police. They verify the bill as counterfeit and get a search warrant to look through Mr. Nenger's home. In the attic they find where he is reproducing money. He is a master artist and is painting \$20 bills with brushes and paint!
- But also in the attic they find three portraits Nenger had painted. They seized these and eventually sold them at auction for \$16,000 (in 1887 currency, remember) or a little more than \$5,000 per painting.
- The irony is that it took Nenger almost as long to paint a \$20 bill as it did for him to paint a \$5,000 portrait! (SermonIllustrations.com, Signs of the Times, Oct. 1988, p. 22-3.)
 - If Nenger would have set his mind on earning an honest living, he would have been much richer in life, morally and materially, than by lustfully setting his mind on being a thief.

- if we don't make lustful provisions for the flesh (forethought, arrangement) we'll avoid sin, except for occasional accidents, and some sins of ignorance

- **When we make provision for the flesh (sin, by lusting), we give Satan an opportunity to defeat us!**
 - **Eph. 4:26-27** when we're angry, we're vulnerable to lusting, giving into angry emotion, and give Satan an opportunity to overcome us – therefore, must resolve quickly
 - **1 Pet. 2:11** fleshly lusts wage war against the soul
 - **illus.:** leave door unlocked while sleep, and advertise to thieves

- **Eph. 4:1, 17, 20, 25a, 27** new life as a Christian, not lust, not give Satan an opportunity to overcome us

- if we don't make provision (forethought, arrangement to fulfill) for the flesh and lust, we won't give Satan an opportunity to overcome us
 - defeat Satan – don't make provision for flesh – not lust – lock the door

- **Put on Christ to make no provision for the flesh**
 - **Rom. 13:12-14** put on Christ, then you'll lay aside the deeds of darkness and behave properly
 - put on (vs. 12, 14):
 - metaphor "put on": (armor of Light, Christ), commonly used of clothing – put on your clothes
 - The phrase to put on a person, was frequently used by Greek writers; and means, to imbibe his principles, to imitate his example, to copy his spirit, to become like him.
 - Lucian says, "having put on Pythagoras;" having received him as a teacher and guide.
 - The Greek writers speak of putting on Plato and Socrates, meaning to take them as instructors, to follow them as disciples.
 - Thus, to put on the Lord Jesus means, to take him as a pattern and guide, to imitate his example, to obey his precepts, to become like him. (Barnes)

- - **When we put on Christ. . . .** - quick review, Paul's use of the metaphor "put on"
 - **Eph. 4:24** put on the new self, likeness of God, created in righteousness and holiness of the truth
 - **Eph. 6:11** put on the full armor of God, stand firm against the schemes of the devil
 - **Col. 3:12** put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience
 - **Col. 3:14** put on love
 - **1 Th. 5:18** put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation

- **When we put on Christ, we walk in His footsteps!**
 - **1 Pet. 2:21** called for this purpose, to follow in His steps

- **When we put on Christ, we set our minds on spiritual things! – as Jesus did**
 - **Col. 3:1-3** keep seeking the things above, set your mind on the things above
 - **Phil. 4:6-9** anxious for nothing, in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God, peace of God, . . dwell on these things
 - **illus.:** parable rich man, large harvest, barns, decided to tear down and build bigger, so could live in lavish luxury without helping others, fool, soul required that night – mind not on spiritual things
 - **illus.:** Joseph when tempted by Potiphar's wife, fled from evil and temptation, persecuted for righteousness – mind on spiritual things

- - **As a Christian, have you put on Christ? – are you walking in His footsteps? – as taught in the Bible?**
 - if Jesus was here today, living next door to you. . . .

➤ **How do we put on Christ, as Christians?**

- **1 Jn. 1:3** fellowship with the apostles, living as they instruct, have fellowship with Jesus
 - fellowship: sharing – sharing with Christ – being like Christ – metaphorically, putting on Christ
- **Col. 3:10** put on the new man (faithful Christian) being renewed to a true knowledge – spiritual maturity through God's word
- To put on Christ, we must learn His word and apply it to our lives, to live as He has taught!
 - i.e., walking in His footsteps
 - i.e., with our minds set on spiritual things
 - i.e., walking by the Spirit (Gal. 5:16-24)

Summary / Inv.

- everyone is making provision for something – what are you making provision for
 - sin, flesh, eternity in hell
 - spiritual walk in fellowship with Christ, eternity in heaven
- **inv.:** baptized, clothed (put on) Christ
 - **Gal. 3:27** baptized into Christ have, clothed (put on)