Make No Provision for the Flesh

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)