



# Northside Proclaimer

*Proclaiming The Word Of The Lord*

1 Thessalonians 1:8

**Northside Church Of Christ Welcomes You!**

**Jan. 25, 2015**

## **“Make No Provision For The Flesh”**

*Bryan Garlock*

Paul taught, “...salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires” (Rom. 13:12-14).

One day the Lord will return (2 Thess. 1:7-9; Acts 17:30-31). This is an inescapable truth. Thus, Paul admonishes us to cast off the works of darkness by repenting of the sin that once controlled us. While salvation certainly is the motivating factor for repenting of sin (cf. Rom. 2:4), the promise to fall into the hands of the living God should equally warn us as well (cf. Heb. 10:31; Rom. 11:22).

Next, if we are to walk properly, we must put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh. Different translations put an interesting spin on the meaning of one “making provision.” Notice: “...and don’t plan to indulge your selfish desires” (CEB). “...and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh (NIV). “...and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof” (KJV). “...and make no provision for the flesh to arouse its desires” (NET).

If I’m purposing in my life not to make provision for the flesh, I will not put myself in a situation that causes me to sin. For instance, if I struggle with alcohol consumption I will not go to a bar, a friend’s house or a party where I know alcohol will be served. All these situations are an enabler to my problem. Therefore, I cannot walk properly if I put myself in a situation that potentially fulfills lust and arouses its desires!

The above illustration is found many times throughout Scripture. Take for instance Joseph. It was recorded of him, “...handsome in form and appearance” (Gen. 39:6). Moses further recorded that Potiphar’s wife enticed Joseph to lie with her daily. Though he was a slave and forced into this situation, he remained faithful to his master and to God by refusing to make any room for sin. Thus we read, “...when he went into the house to do his work and none of the men of the house was there in the house, she caught him by his garment, saying, “Lie with me.” But he left his garment in her hand and fled and got out of the house” (vv11-12).

More often than not, we are fleeing to sin, rather than fleeing from sin. Continued on back...

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Private

Chronological Bible Reading Plan

Jan 25 Gen 38-40

Jan 26 Gen 41-42

Jan 27 Gen 43-45

Jan 28 Gen 46-47

Jan 29 Gen 48-50

Jan 30 Ex 1-3

Jan 31 Ex 4-6

Yet, those who put on Jesus Christ (Gal. 3.26-27) will “[t]ake no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them” (Eph. 5.11). Thus, we make room for sin when we participate or engage in sin. Consequently, once this provision is made, we have already lost the battle. We have fallen into the hands of Satan and the temptation will be difficult to pass up. Consider again the alcohol illustration. If I put myself in a situation where alcohol is placed before me and everybody is drinking, you can be sure the temptation will be nearly impossible to refuse. Accordingly, if I never open the door to sin, I’ll never walk in!

There are many consequences to satisfying our desires that we would do well to observe. Notice how Paul described those who make it a practice to satisfy themselves, “...[f]or although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them” (Rom. 1.21-32).

Yet, Paul wrote, “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (Gal. 2.20). Later he penned, “[a]nd those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires” (Gal. 5.24). Peter also taught, “...live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you...” (1 Peter 1.1-4). The crucified man will not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh. BG