**Make No Provision for the Flesh**

*Romans 13:11-14*

**Introduction**

1. The Christian has been ***“delivered…from the power of darkness and conveyed…into the kingdom of the Son of [God’s] love” (Colossians 1:13).***
2. As such, Christians are ***“all sons of light and sons of the day….not of the night nor of darkness” (1 Thessalonians 5:5).***
3. ***“God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thessalonians 5:9).***
4. This salvation is nearer than when we first obeyed the gospel, and each day it draws nearer still.
5. *A runner who nears the finish line does not draw back due to his approach, but presses on.* ***(CC – finishing push.)***
6. The Christian should never draw back – ***“But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul” (Hebrews 10:39).***
7. **Paul admonishes against providing for the flesh. To do so is to draw back.**
8. Make No Provision for the Flesh
9. The Flesh
   1. **Galatians 5:16-17** – One cannot do what he wants in the flesh (fulfilling fleshly desires opposed to God) and live spiritually.
   2. ***“For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace” (Romans 8:6)***.
   3. **Ephesians 2:3** – In the past we lived for the flesh. (Nature – habit; manner; practice)
   4. However, we were ***“[cleansed]…from dead works to serve the living God” (Hebrews 9:14).***
   5. **The pull of the flesh still exists, but it must be resisted. This, to the extent that, there is no give to the flesh on any level. 🡪**
10. Make No Provision
    1. ***“Do not be deceived: ‘Evil company corrupts good habits’” (1 Corinthians 15:33).***
       1. Context: Those who suggest there is no resurrection.
       2. **However, rings true for many circumstances. Keeping company with anything evil will lead to your corruption.**
    2. ***“Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?” (1 Corinthians 5:6).***
    3. ***There are some things which we may do that provide occasion for the flesh. We must be willing to lay them aside lest we become corrupt. 🡪***
    4. **Hebrews 12:1** – Difference between “weight” and “sin.”
       1. There are things which are not inherently sinful, but that may hinder us unnecessarily, and provide for the flesh.
       2. **Movies, books, entertainment in general, job, friends, etc.**
    5. **We must not have the mind to inch as close to the precipice as possible, but to keep ourselves at a safe distance, i.e. as far away as possible.**
11. The Progressiveness of the Flesh
12. **Sin will take you further than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay.**
13. ***“not in revelry and drunkenness”***
    1. **Revelry** – *kōmos* – "a revel, carousal," the concomitant and consequence of drunkenness. (VINE)
       1. That which is produced by alcohol consumption. (NOT THE GREATEST LEVEL EXPRESSED IN SCRIPTURE)
       2. Inebriated enough to feel in control, but with enough lowering of the inhibitions to participate in revelry.
    2. **Drunkenness** – *methē* – intoxication; drunkenness (THAYER)
       1. “To be pretty well drunk.” (LIDDELL-SCOTT)
       2. “stronger, and expressing a worse excess.” (R.C. TRENCH)
       3. **Cause and Effect – kōmos (lesser) leads to methē (greater) insofar as the degree of drunkenness goes, and that which accompanies the drunkenness (revelry).**
    3. **1 Peter 4:3** – addition of *potos* and *oinophlygia.*
       1. **Drunkenness** – *oinophlygia* – an overflow of wine. (STRONG)
          1. “It marks a step in advance of methē (to be pretty well drunk).” (TRENCH)
          2. Greatest form of intoxication in this text.
       2. **Drinking parties** – *potos* – a drinking. (VINE; STRONG; THAYER)
          1. “the drinking bout, the banquet, the symposium, not of necessity excessive…, but giving opportunity for excess.” (R.C. TRENCH)
          2. “It means properly drinking; an act of drinking; then a drinking bout; drinking together.” (Albert Barnes’ Notes on the Bible, 1 Peter 4:3)
          3. Lowest degree of intoxication in this text.
    4. ***“Do not look on the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it swirls around smoothly; at the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like a viper” (Proverbs 23:31-32).***
    5. **Elders** – ***“not given to wine” (1 Timothy 3:3).*** (**not near, beside, in the vicinity of, or at proximity with wine**)
    6. **Being near alcohol may lead to *potos*, which very well may lead to *methe*, then to *oinophlygia* – Progressive! – DO NOT PROVIDE!**
14. ***“not in lewdness and lust”***
    1. **Lusts** – *aselgeia* – "unbridled lust, excess, licentiousness, lasciviousness, wantonness, outrageousness, shamelessness, insolence"
       1. "wanton (acts or) manners, as filthy words, indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females, etc." (Fritzsche)
       2. Not the sexual act – fornication – but all that is related to, and precedes it.
    2. **Lewdness** – *koitē* – a place for lying down, resting, sleeping in; a bed, couch.
       1. Euphemism for sexual intercourse.
       2. **Cf. Hebrews 13:4** – marriage bed undefiled.
    3. **Lusts inevitably lead to lewdness. Thoughts lead to action.**
    4. ***“Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life” (Proverbs 4:23).***
    5. **2 Timothy 2:22** – **FLEE!**
15. ***“not in strife and envy”***
    1. **Envy** – *zēlos* – properly heat, that is, (figuratively) zeal (in a favorable sense, ardor; in an unfavorable one, jealousy, as of a husband [figuratively of God], or an enemy, malice).
    2. **Strife** – *eris* – a quarrel, that is, (by implication) wrangling.
    3. ***“Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another” (Galatians 5:26).***
    4. One of 6 things the Lord hates – ***“one who sows discord among brethren” (Proverbs 6:19).***
    5. **Philippians 2:3-4** – Look passed self to others needs.
    6. ***“endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:3)***.
    7. **Some let themselves grow hot with anger or jealousy, and that will inevitably lead to outward displays of strife.**
16. **When the flesh is provided for, sin ensues, and progresses to stages we would have never imagined.**
17. Put On the Lord Jesus Christ
18. ***“Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ” (1 Corinthians 11:1).***
    1. To ***“put on the Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 13:14)*** is to clothe ourselves with the characteristics the Lord possessed in His earthly life.
    2. **This is done by submitting to His word.**
19. Learn Christ
    1. In contrast to the Gentiles character – **cf. Ephesians 4:20-24** – know the truth, practice the truth, be righteous and holy.
    2. **Colossians 3:16-17** – Let God’s word dwell in you (context – song; also, anything to do with the word of God), and submit wholly to His authority.
    3. **There is not room for any provision for the flesh if we are FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT!**

**Conclusion** – Our salvation is near. We must live righteously. We must not provide occasion for the flesh. If we do, sin will take us far down the path to destruction. Instead, conform to Jesus.