

Elder Bobby Willis



Romans 13:14, **“But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.”**

**“Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person...”** (Hebrews 1:3). Paul declares the oneness of Christ and God the Father by using the expression **“express image of his person.”** By nature, we have the image of our parents to a certain degree. It is amazing how some children are almost carbon copies while others bear very little resemblance or none at all. Even children of the same parents are very different in appearance, personalities, and the general way they act. While everyone that Jesus died for will live with Him in Paradise and are His children by adoption, it was **“the will of him that sent me...”** (Christ), **“...that ever one which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day”** (John 6:40). Therefore, we should put on the Lord Jesus Christ so that our actions, our personalities, and even our appearance can be likened unto Christ. In chapter six of the Ephesian letter, the Apostle Paul speaks of putting on the whole armour of God. If we would do so, and keep it on, it would help tremendously in how we reflect the image of our heavenly Father. Notice the second part of this 14th verse, as it is so expressive in revealing the true nature of our problem when we don’t take on the appearance of Christ outwardly. It says, **“...make not provision for the flesh...”** If you have on the proper clothing (armour), it will cover up or hide the natural flesh, both literally and figuratively. Our bodies of flesh bear the fleshly nature of sin, and by nature wants and desires **“to fulfil the lust”** housed in it. This is our own personal warfare which we must fight if we are to overcome the flesh and reflect the image of our Lord like we should. David knew the natural armour of King Saul would not be what he needed, but rather chose to cover himself with the godly armour (already proven by David slaying a lion and a bear) which only the Lord can provide (see I Samuel ch. 17). Likewise, we are to have our **“... loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod**

**with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith...** Then we are to **“...take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”** (Ephesians 6:13-17). When we are born again of the Spirit of God, we bear the image of Christ inwardly. Isn't it high time we did a better job of bearing His image outwardly by **“letting our light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven”**? (Matthew 5:16). Think about it!