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telling himself, “It’s just a little snuff. At least I’m not smoking a pack a day like some people!” Or maybe someone is smoking a pack a day and saying, “At least it’s not two!”

We could list all sorts of scenarios, but it’s not hard to see through these excuses. They are justifications, however illogically deduced, designed to make one feel better about “just a little” sin. They don’t consider how just a little skin can lead to a little more and a little more. Or how just a beer can lead to another, then another, then to glass of wine, then to a mixed drink, then to maybe a drink with no mix at all. Or how just a dip can lead to.... well, you get the picture.

The wise man asked, “*Can a man take fire into his bosom and his clothes not be burned? Or can a man walk on hot coals and his feet not be scorched?*” (Proverbs 6:27-28). The obvious answer is a resounding “NO!” Playing around sin in any of its forms is dangerous and is certainly “flirtin’ with disaster” since “*the wages of sin is death*” (Romans 6:23).

The Bible reminds us that “*sin is lawlessness*” (1<sup>st</sup> John 3:4) and that Jesus will one day say, “*Depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness*” (Matthew 7:23). Notice that John doesn’t say that big sin is lawlessness, he means all sin is lawlessness! How then can we keep from falling prey to the many temptations that confront us in this sin-riddled world? When sins of all types are not only accepted, but encouraged by those we love, what then?

First, realize that not everything the world condones is acceptable to God. “*For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world*” (1<sup>st</sup> John 2:16). Learn to discern what’s acceptable and what’s not. To do this, you’ll have to spend some time and effort in God’s word.

Second, make a resolution to yourself that you will make the effort to stay pure. “*I will set no worthless thing before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not fasten its grip on me. A perverse heart shall depart from me; I will know no evil*” (Psalm 101:3-4). We’re called to be different, to be holy.

Finally, don’t be seduced into playing with sin. In fact, avoid being anywhere near it. “*Test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil*” (1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:21-22). “*But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its*

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## OUR GOSPEL MEETING

Greg Gwin

**H**ave you spent any time thinking about the benefits to be derived from our gospel meeting? Here are some things that we believe can result:

- You can worship and glorify God.
- You can help to support the teaching of truth.
- You can deepen your understanding of the Scriptures.
- You can strengthen your faith.
- You can be encouraged by your association with fellow Christians and you can accomplish your duty to edify your brethren.
- You can help to teach a lost person by inviting them to attend with you.

Of course, there are some other things that you could do this week instead of attending each service of the gospel meeting:

- You could stay home and watch TV.
- You could neglect your duty to God and show a greater love for the things of this world (1<sup>st</sup> John 2:15-17).
- You could forget about learning more of God’s truth.
- You could turn your back on your brethren and choose instead to associate with worldly friends.
- You could simply forsake your spiritual obligations and serve your carnal desires.

Now, look at those two lists. At the end of this week, which course will you have followed? Think!

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*desires*” (Romans 13:14). In the words of a long-ago slogan, just say no.

Don’t look twice, don’t wink, and definitely don’t flirt with disaster. Sin plays for keeps. As Molly Hatchet sang, “When we gamble with our time, We choose our destiny.”

How right they were.

**"WHAT MUST I DO  
TO BE SAVED?"**

*ACTS 16:30*

**LEARN THE GOSPEL**

John 6:45; Romans 10:17

**BELIEVE IN CHRIST**

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16

**CONFESS CHRIST**

Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

**REPENT OF SIN**

Acts 3:19; 17:30

**BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST**

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6

**REMAIN STEADFAST**

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"THE ASSEMBLING OF  
OURSELVES TOGETHER"**

*HEBREWS 10:24-25*

**SUNDAY**

Worship @ 10:00 a.m.

Studies @ 11:45 a.m.

**WEDNESDAY**

Studies & Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

**THURSDAY**

Men's & Ladies' Studies @ 6:20 p.m.

75 Sherrod Boulevard  
Belén, New Mexico

Seekers Welcome.  
Members Expected.

**"IF A MAN IS OVERTAKEN IN  
ANY TRESPASS...  
RESTORE SUCH A ONE"**

*GALATIANS 6:1*

**CONFESS TRESPASSES**

James 5:16; 1<sup>st</sup> John 1:9

**REPENT OF SIN**

Acts 8:22

**PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS**

Acts 8:22

**REMAIN STEADFAST**

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"A WORD FITLY SPOKEN IS  
LIKE APPLES OF GOLD IN  
SETTINGS OF SILVER"**

*PROVERBS 25:11*

"Real religion will cost you, but  
no religion will cost you more."

– Zeke Flores

# "WHOLE COUNSEL"

*ACTS 20:27*

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## FLIRTIN' WITH DISASTER

Zeke Flores, adapted

There was a song by the rock band Molly Hatchet that I used to like titled "Flirtin' With Disaster." The song was about the hard, on-the-road lifestyle of a rock-n-roll band and the self-destructive habits that kind of life breeds. Of course, you don't have to be a rock star to know that.

We see folks flirtin' with disaster all the time. There was a show that depicted young people doing all kinds of dangerous stunts from playing chicken with cars, to car roof surfing, to backyard wrestling complete with whacking each other with metal folding chairs just like on WWF! You can imagine how many of these amateur stuntmen ended up in the hospital. Flirtin' with disaster is not just confined to TV shows, though. People, young and not so young, imitate what they see and it wasn't long before we saw real-life stunts that went horribly wrong as people died from trying to perform these dangerous stunts. Apparently, they didn't heed the disclaimer, "Don't try this at home!"

Flirtin' with disaster takes many forms. One might be surfing the internet, come upon a soft-porn site and linger a little while asking himself, "What's wrong with just a little skin? After all, it's not hardcore!" Or perhaps one is pressured into having a cold beer at a party just to fit in and justifying it with, "Hey! It's just one beer! At least I'm not getting drunk!" Or maybe one is inclined to have a little dip, (you know, just a pinch between the cheek and gums!) once in a while – Continued on page 2 –

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