

# mercEmail

A Weekly Devotional from the  
South Green Street Church of Christ

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## What A Tangled Web We Weave

by Steve Higginbotham

**T**he Internet provides the church with unparalleled opportunities to reach the world with the gospel. With very little expense, the message of Christ can be presented, potentially before millions of people every day. It's a tremendous and exciting tool that has untapped potential. Yet, like all things, Satan can take what could be used for good and use it to destroy. The Internet is no exception.

Since we're all computer users, the following suggestions are relevant to us.

**Be Cautious Of Time Spent On The Internet.** It is so easy to get lost in this world of information. Hours upon hours can very easily be wasted every day through browsing. Don't allow yourself or your children spend hours on the Internet every day. Set some limits and live by them.

**Be Aware: Pornography Is Everywhere.** The most extreme hardcore pornography in the form of pictures, chat, and movies can easily be viewed by anyone, including children. Use of the Internet *must* be monitored. If we wouldn't allow our children to walk by themselves at night through a red light district of a large city, then you cannot allow your children to surf the web without protection. Here are some suggestions... Employ a filtering software that will not allow your child to accidentally or deliberately go to a pornographic website. Don't allow your child to surf after you go to bed. Place your computer in a frequently accessed room with the monitor facing the door.

**Be Aware: Predators Are Looking For Prey.** Chat rooms should be off limits to young children and instant messenger programs should be controlled. There are countless adults who masquerade as a young person and attempt to solicit information from your child that could put their safety at risk.

If the Internet sounds like a dangerous place, that's because it is. It is a microcosm of the world in which we live. Therefore, we must approach it like we do the world. We must learn to discern between good and evil, avoid the evil, and use the good as a tool to reach the world with the gospel.