

## The Pains of Cleaning

When we clean out our closet to get ready for a rummage sale or to donate to Goodwill, we often have pain. It may be due to our clothes being too small to fit us now. It may be because of the fond memories the items trigger. Pain is mostly caused by our reluctance to let go of something we still see as valuable but cannot justify keeping for sake of space.

Here at the building we are planning to use one of the cabinets that formerly held cassette sermon tapes for storing scissors, staplers, tape, and such like. The practical side of getting rid of the tapes is obvious. Few of us have cassette players anymore. No one (to my knowledge) has checked out a tape for many years. Websites and CD's are available with many sermons. The multi-drawer cabinets are more suitable for storing items teachers use than the plastic totes they are currently in.

However, the practicality of the change does not remove the pain. We have lessons from our former preachers: Greg Sharp, Norman Midgette, Raymond Harris, Bruce Dehut, and Larry Ping. We have lessons from various meetings the congregation has hosted. There are series of lessons by Homer Hailey, Phil Roberts, Dee Bowman, L.A. Stauffer, Bill Brian, Brian Sullivan, and others. Many of these preachers have passed on to their reward. It seems almost irreverent to get rid of these sermons. It is kind of like throwing away a worn out Bible.

We are saving one cabinet full of sermons, but there are others that need to be taken to your homes, turned into CD's, mailed to needy churches, or something. They are in the room next to the corner preacher's office. Feel free to take them if you like. We could store them in the library, but there is no reason to save what we cannot hear. Let me know what you think? *Ron Roberts*

## Mooreville church of Christ

720 N. Indianapolis Road

Mooreville, IN 46158

**September 30, 2018**

**Sunday:**

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship

5:00 p.m. Worship

**Wednesday:**

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

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## Announcements

James Hahn will be here for our Gospel meeting soon (Oct. 14-19). Fliers are on the rear table if you want to share them with someone.

This is the fifth Sunday. We have a guest speaker for the p.m. service. Leroy will bring our Gospel message.

Keep Jill in your prayers as she goes through her treatments.

Thank you to those who joined in the work day on Thursday night. We are making the first steps toward switching the high school class and the resource room. It involves moving shelves, the laminator, the copier, and painting walls. We also need to buy and build some items. We want to get cabinets, an island, and a paper dispenser for the large rolls.

We hope to have Aric Russell in to preach for us next Sunday night.

**Be Humble  
enough to  
pray**

# Wasted Energy

Ron Roberts

No, this is not an article for environmentalists or the utility company. I am talking about wasted energy in our bodies. Every time I see a football player do a dance in the end zone I cannot help but wonder if he has burned up so much energy that he will not be able to score again.

The older we get the more we recognize some limitations in our energy level. We start to see the need for making choices about the proper use of our time and labor. I remember moving to a new house and trying to put all the boxes and furniture in the right place the first time. It seemed like we always put the stuff on one side of the room and painted the opposite walls. Then we moved all the stuff to the painted side and painted the other walls. We would then move the items a third time to have the actual room arrangement. It would have been better to paint the walls first and to move and place the furniture one time after. If the items had to be put in the room we should have put them in the middle until the painting was done. This is not lazy. It is working smarter.

Titus 2:14 tells us we should be “*zealous of good works*”, as we have been studying in our Wednesday night class. Zeal refers to an enthusiastic approach toward God. The Greek word means “to have warmth for or against something.” It refers to a passion. We could say, “We are on fire for the Lord!”

We are to be zealous, but this zeal must be used in authorized activities. We cannot burn up all our energies in one area and then have no power left to do the things God commands. We could coach little league and say we are giving the boys a godly example. We do not cuss, smoke, or argue with the umpires. We congratulate the team that beats us, and we do not gloat over the teams we defeated. Unfortunately some games run late on Wednesday night, so we do not attend Bible Study. Some times we are not coaching we are just too tired to attend. The body has limits and we must therefore make proper choices.

# “I Want to be Weak”

I do not believe I ever heard someone say, “**I want to be weak**”. People do not stay in bed so that their muscles can deteriorate. They are in bed because they are sick, but they want to get up as soon as they can. No one purposely poisons himself. He does not want to feel the harmful effects on his body. If he is accidentally poisoning himself he will quit as soon as he learns the truth. Sure, people do not exercise or maintain a proper diet in their life, but this is not because their goal is to be puny. They just lack the discipline to regulate these unhealthy habits.

But we have to wonder as we look at some church members, do they want to be weak spiritually. They do not literally take poison into their systems, but they surround themselves with toxic elements. They listen to music and watch shows that encourage immorality. They associate with friends and coworkers who keep offering them alcohol. They take a job that requires them to be out of town on Wednesdays and Sundays. They listen to profanity and crude jokes when it is in their power to walk away. Paul said, “*Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners*” (1 Cor. 15:33). Or should we say our associations will **poison** our good qualities.

These Christians also poison their children spiritually. They would not say, “**I want my children to be weak**,” but that is how they act. They allow them to run with friends that are wicked. They pay for them to attend the prom. They do not regulate their intake of music, TV, or internet. They buy them immodest clothing, allow them to miss services to work a part time job, and lie for them to keep the church from influencing them to make the proper changes.

The means to grow stronger are readily available. The Bible, prayer, Bible classes, worship services, godly members, and other good things are ready to be utilized. But they are avoided in order to stay weak and dying in the church. Why do members behave this way?