

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

February 2, 2025

Song: **602** – *There Is a Habitation*

Song: **673** – *Sweet By and By*

First prayer: **Mark Brandt**

Song: **100** – *The Lord's Supper*

Communion servers: **Brian Zumalt** & **Larry Simmons**

Prayer for giving: **Jeremy Thomas**

Song: **784** – *Lord, Send Me*

Sermon: “How Far From the Kingdom?” – **David Ray**

Invitation song: **471** – *Who Will Follow Jesus?*

Closing song: **646** – *God Be With You*

Closing prayer: **Mernie Ray**

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- Jerry & Sherlene – health
- Scott Esk – cancer
- Kim's cousin's son (Isaac Wood) – stroke recovery
- Rick Beauchamp and Jerry, Sonya, and Lee Smith (Northpointe) – car accident
- Our nation (1 Tim. 2:2)
- Our members with health issues: Kim, David, Mattie

**Please continue to remember:** Connie Townsend, Lucinda, Vipin & family, India work, Aruna Kavali, Marinda Breeding, Holley Brewer, Kevin Brewer, Dylan Walker

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- “Precept Upon Precept” is a YouTube channel with many sermons/articles from faithful brethren ([www.youtube.com/@preceptuponprecept8495](http://www.youtube.com/@preceptuponprecept8495))

### RECORD FOR WEEK OF JANUARY 26, 2024

#### ATTENDANCE:

Bible Class – 9    AM Worship – 9    Sun PM – 12    DBR – 3    Wed (1/29) – 11

Contribution – \$1375

# *Yukon Church of Christ*

## **THE LABORER**

702 South Ranchwood Blvd., Yukon, OK 73099    (405) 354-0238

Preacher: David Ray

Web Site: [www.yukoncofc.org](http://www.yukoncofc.org)

Sunday Bible class: 9am    Worship 10am & 12:30pm    Wednesday Bible class: 7pm

**Matthew 9:37-38** “The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest.”

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## **SEND US SOME MEN**

The first permanent English settlement in America was at Jamestown. Barely a year old, the settlement found itself in serious trouble. A primary part of the problem was that the colony was made up of “gentleman adventurers.” Captain John Smith, the leader of the settlement, understood the problem and sent an urgent message back to his sponsors declaring, “Send me some men.” Smith needed carpenters, blacksmiths, and masons. He explained that he had rather have a handful of those men, than a thousand of the ones that he presently had. The ship Good Speed shortly brought six such workmen to Jamestown. Within three weeks, they had cleared a plot and erected a furnace. Furthermore, they had set up a soap works and a sawmill. A little over a month after the workmen arrived, the colonists were inspired by their example and began working also.

Sadly, many congregations, like the Jamestown colony, are in need of men. They have “gentleman adventurers,” but not skilled men. They have watchers, but not workers. Like John Smith, we need to send out an urgent call for laborers (Matt. 9:37-38). We need men who will labor together with God (1 Cor. 3:9). We need elders, preachers, deacons, Bible school teachers, and soul winners. Like Ezekiel, we need men who will “*Make up the hedge and stand in the gap*” (Ezek. 22:30). Like Jeremiah, we need “*men who execute judgment and seek the truth*” (Jer 5:1). For sure, a handful of these men will be worth more than a thousand others.

Author unknown

# ABOMINABLE AND DISOBEDIENT

Titus warned that Christians must be prepared for deceivers coming into their midst, those who will subvert entire households, having turned away from the truth and exchanging it for the commandments of men (Tit. 1:10-16). Although Titus’ warning was against the Judaizing teachers of his day, the same continues to stand true today. These abominable and disobedient liars have accepted an enormous responsibility in shepherding the flock over which they are members. Yes, as Paul warned the elders of the church at Ephesus:

Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. **Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things**, to draw away disciples after them (Acts 20:28-30).

Over the past few years, I have witnessed a new thing that was unfathomable in the Lord’s church decades ago. *Elders* who justify their disobedient and abominable actions by saying they spent weeks in “prayer and study.” There is nothing wrong with prayer and the study of God’s Word. It is something that more of us should be doing. However, as the adage says, “Actions are stronger than words,” or in this case, “prayer and study.” I have seen congregations who have decided to add the instrument to their worship or allow women to take authoritative positions make written statements to justify their actions that “after many weeks or months of intense prayer and study, we have concluded that God is silent on the matter of instruments, or the matter of women teaching Bible classes, or leading prayers.” It is apparent that their study must have been out of one of the newer versions of the Bible that have added the books of “First and Second Opinions” because no one should require weeks or months of study and prayer to establish that they are categorically and undeniably wrong!

To abuse prayer and study to justify ungodly actions and lead hundreds of souls astray is a technique taken out of Satan’s handbook for suckers! Several years ago, the *elders* of the Southern Hills church in Abilene, Texas, went so far as to blame God for their decision to establish their “Bar Church!” You heard it correctly. They stated that “**God repeatedly led us** to follow Jesus outside the walls of our church building...” Oh yes, they did pray that God’s will be done.

Unfortunately, it was the will of Satan, the god of this world! Not only do they serve alcohol, but they have a band with the lifting of holy hands and other Pentecostal endeavors. Was there not prayer and study going on at Ephesus? Sardis? Laodicea? Thyatira? and Pergamos? No doubt, yet Jesus instructed them to repent of their evil works or have their candlestick removed. If prayer and study are not in accordance with God’s Word, rationally handling the evidence presented and drawing **only** such conclusions as the evidence provides, then it is nothing more than will worship that one is involved in.

James hit the proverbial nail on the head concerning such brethren who justify evil deeds by contending they “prayed and studied” about it when he wrote:

Ye ask (prayer), and receive not, because **ye ask amiss**, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God (Jam. 4:3-4).

Brethren who *pray* for using instruments in worship, allowing women to lead prayer, singing, or teaching, or endorsing alcohol as a means of evangelism have asked God amiss. They have become adulterers by exchanging God’s truth for a lie.

Instead of shouting for joy that they have reached a higher state of spirituality (which, by the way, is Pat Boone’s argument), James says they should turn that joy into mourning and humility (4:9-10) because they have transgressed God’s will. Yes, we should all spend time in prayer and study, but not to the point that it violates the Word of God. This is no different than those who claim a new revelation from God. God does not change (1:17), and no amount of prayer or study can change that unless one is determined to be abominable and disobedient!

Mike Demory

## What Must I Do To Be Saved?

1. [HEAR THE WORD](#) Romans 10:17
2. [BELIEVE IN JESUS](#) John 3:16; 8:24
3. [REPENT OF YOUR SINS](#) Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30; 2 Corinthians 7:10
4. [CONFESS THAT JESUS IS LORD](#) Romans 10:9-10 (cf. Acts 8:37)
5. [BE BAPTIZED FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF YOUR SINS](#) Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21
6. [REMAIN FAITHFUL](#) 1 Corinthians 15:58; Colossians 1:23; Revelation 2:10