

ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 23, 2025

Song: **240** – *Have Thine Own Way*

Song: **202** – *There Stands a Rock*

First prayer: **Mark Brandt**

Song: **107** – *Of We Come Together*

Communion servers: **Jeremy Thomas & Larry Simmons**

Prayer for giving: **Mernie Ray**

Song: **177** – *I Know That My Redeemer Lives*

Sermon: “*Playing a Piano in Worship Won’t Send You to Hell*” – **Jerry Brewer**

Invitation song: **417** – *Where He Leads Me I Will Follow*

Closing song: **613** – *At the Cross*

Closing prayer: **Brian Zumalt**

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- Jason Jaworsky (Shane’s stepdad) – stroke recovery
- 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

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)

RECORD FOR WEEK OF MARCH 16, 2025

ATTENDANCE:

Bible Class – 9 AM Worship – 14 Sun PM – 9 DBR – 7 Wed (3/19) – 11

Contribution – \$1222

Yukon Church of Christ

THE LABORER

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

Preacher: David Ray

Web Site: 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.*”

Volume 21

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A LOT OF STRAW

Very few religious “scholars” would dispute that Martin Luther was responsible for describing the epistle of James as a “right strawy one.” Apparently, the renowned reformationist could not accept James’ inspired teaching on justification by works and not faith only. Thus, it seems, he simply ignored the book’s authenticity. In so doing, Luther spread “a lot of straw” throughout most of the New Testament, without even realizing it.

James 2 is not the only place where works are emphasized; the New Testament is filled with passage after passage denoting the essentiality of works on the part of every professed believer. Did Martin Luther ascribe a “strawy nature” to Ephesians, Titus, or perhaps 1 Peter? I do not think so. But why not, since all these epistles and many others plainly reveal that works are a necessary component in getting our souls to heaven? Let us explore this issue more closely.

Paul, Peter, or John never taught that works of obedient faith conflicted with, flatly-contradicted, or negated grace—just the opposite is true. All the New Testament writers confirmed (even Matthew) the obligatory nature of keeping the law of Christ, which obviously meant that God intended for man to demonstrate faith in Him through works. A few examples are very much in order.

Paul revealed by inspiration that Christians are to be always “*abounding in the work of the Lord*” (1 Cor. 15:58). Was this written as an optional matter? Can we not abound in the **work** of the Lord always and still be accepted in His sight?

“No,” is the obvious answer. The Spirit’s admonition in this verse is not a “take-it or leave it” type command. Would Martin Luther brand 1 Corinthians as a “right strawy epistle”? I doubt it. But why not, since consistency would really demand it?

Furthermore, what would Luther do with Titus; for in that great epistle Paul related the divine truth that Christians are to be a “*peculiar people,*” “*zealous of good works*” (Tit. 2:14). Can you or I not be a person of zealous works and still go to heaven? Who could imagine such a faithless system?

What about Ephesians? Is it a strawy epistle? According to Luther, it should be. The eternal, foreordained law of God’s people walking in good **works** is found in Ephesians 2:10. Is it fine and dandy for us to ignore this teaching and rely solely on grace and mere mental agreement with God to secure our salvation? Who would be so foolish as to draw such a conclusion? Martin Luther, perhaps?

While he was at it, Luther should have spread a little straw over the book of Acts. According to Luther’s reasoning, Luke must have misunderstood the Holy Spirit as Luke was recounting Paul’s appearance before King Agrippa, because Paul said that repentance is demonstrated through the appropriate works—works of obedient faith as outlined in God’s Word: “*that they should repent and turn to God, and do **works** meet* [suitable, worthy] *for repentance*” (Acts 26:20).

And what about Peter? Let us not forget him. I wonder if Martin Luther labeled Peter’s writings as “strawy”? In 1 Peter 1:17, Peter wrote that we will be judged by our **work**. It sounds like work is pretty important, since our eternal destiny will be considered in light of it.

In no way is this writer suggesting that works **alone** can save, for they cannot. God’s plan for our salvation involves His grace, love, and mercy; but it also includes man’s part: faith, obedience, law-keeping based on our love for and dependence upon God—and yes, works. No straw here, just truth.

Steve Harris

THE MASTER ARCHITECT

The idea of the Bible providing us with a pattern for the church in its terms of entrance, organization, worship and Christian life is known as “pattern theology.” In the early history of the United States men sought a return to the Bible for authority in all we do in our service to God. In their search they discovered that there is a pattern in the New Testament for the church Christ established in all of these areas. As they began to preach what they had learned it is not surprising that they encountered opposition. In spite of that opposition they pressed forward in their search for the truth revealed in God’s word.

Many in the “Christian” world no longer subscribe to the idea of pattern theology. Instead they view the Bible as an abstract series of writings containing wisdom from God for man to live by. The New Testament is not viewed as an absolute authority with commands to be obeyed and examples to be followed. Rather, it is described as a series of love letters from God to man, leaving man with the freedom to determine which teachings are binding upon him and which are mere suggestions. However, God has always provided man with a blueprint to follow in order to be close to Him. Further, God expects man to follow the pattern He has provided.

When God was angry with man at the time of Noah (Genesis 6) He provided that righteous soul with a blueprint for the ark that he was to build in order to preserve life on the earth. Noah understood the sovereignty of God and respected God’s perfect authority, wisdom and knowledge. Therefore, Noah humbly obeyed God and for a hundred and twenty years he toiled faithfully to build the ark that would save him, his family and animal life from the flood God said He was going to bring upon the earth. The divine record tells us that “Noah did according to all that the Lord commanded” (Gen. 6:2; 7:5). Are you following the pattern God gave us?

Author Unknown

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