

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**March 30, 2025**

Song: **174** – *Higher Ground*

Song: **211** – *We Saw Thee Not*

First prayer: **Shane Upton**

Song: **99** – *Night, With Ebon Pinion*

Communion servers: **Brian Zumalt & Mernie Ray**

Prayer for giving: **Mark Brandt**

Song: **187** – *I Want to be a Worker*

Sermon: “*Ways to be Wise (part 2)*” – **David Ray**

Invitation song: **456** – *There’s a Fountain Free*

Closing song: **901** – *No Tears in Heaven*

Closing prayer: **Jeremy Thomas**

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

- Jason Jaworsky (Shane’s stepdad) – stroke recovery
- Jerry & Sherlene – health
- 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](http://www.youtube.com/@preceptuponprecept8495))

**RECORD FOR WEEK OF MARCH 23, 2025**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Bible Class – 10      AM Worship – 14      Sun PM – 10      DBR –      Wed (3/26) – 15

Contribution – \$1476

# *Yukon Church of Christ*

## ***THE LABORER***

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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.*”

**Volume 21**

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**March 30, 2025**

## ***“PRAISE TEAMS”***

What is a praise team, and is there anything wrong with it? A praise team, at least in churches of Christ where this author has been a member (and even participated in one years ago), is a group of church members, usually both male and female, who, during the church’s song worship, will sing the same worship songs being sung by the rest of the congregation, but usually while standing on the stage and using microphones in order to be heard over and above everyone else. One might call them song leaders, used in conjunction with or in lieu of a traditional song leader. What is their purpose? The answer to this may depend on the particular congregation using them.

An online search to find out the purpose of a praise team yielded nothing that provided any biblical support or relevance, but mostly just comments such as, “to lead the congregation in musical worship” and “to give musical definition to the vocal parts.”

As we discuss whether or not this is an acceptable practice in worship, we need to take a step back and make sure we are on the same page fundamentally in our discussion of the church. For example, before we can know how the church should worship, we need to know who the church is and how it derives its authority for its actions (i.e., how can we appropriately determine what is and is not acceptable in worship?).

Jesus said in Matthew 16:18, “Upon this rock I will build my church.” Any discerning adult can rightly conclude from this that there is only one New Testament, Christian

church. Yet there are so many “churches” out there for folks to choose from. How can one determine which one is right and which ones aren’t? Studying the New Testament, we will see the characteristics that describe, define, and identify this church. A church that meets these characteristics is the one you’re looking for.

Arguably the most foundational verse on authority is Colossians 3:17, which requires us to have authority for everything we do in religion. It says, “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus....” In the original Greek, as in the English, the word *name* means *authority*. God requires and expects the church to obey His Word and to do **only** those things which He has authorized therein.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 confirms that this necessary authority comes from His Word.

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

This teaches us that the Bible will equip the man of God (i.e., the Christian, the church) for **every** good work – not some, not most, but **every** work that **God** identifies as good. So, we can conclude that, if an action is not taught in Scripture, it is not authorized. And what is not authorized is, by definition, unauthorized. This is an undeniable and irrefutable logical truth that every human who wishes to follow God must accept: if the Bible doesn't authorize a particular action, we cannot do or participate in that action with God's approval; and to go ahead and do so is to violate not only the passages already mentioned, but also those that forbid adding to and subtracting from His word (see Deut. 4:2; 12:32; Prov. 30:5-6; Gal. 1:8-9; Rev. 22:17-18). Furthermore, if the Bible is **silent** on an action, it is impossible for that action to be authorized by the Bible. After all, since Scripture says that it thoroughly furnishes us for every good work (i.e., every action in which we could engage), how can it have provided this necessary authority regarding an action about which it never said a word? Or, put another way, how can an action be considered a good work if the Bible was silent on that action, never furnishing us for it in any way? It cannot.

Given our understanding that all actions in worship must have Biblical approval, our next question logically would be, **where is such authority for praise teams?** Are the commands for singing sufficient to authorize them? Consider:

Eph. 5:19 – “Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.”

Col. 3:16 – “...teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”

One might claim that this is exactly what praise teams are doing. Is this the case? Are they simply singing and making melody in their hearts to the Lord? Or is there more involved in these groups that needs to be discussed? If the **only** thing these particular members are doing is singing the same songs in the same manner as all the other members, why are they singing on the stage? If they were doing nothing more than the other members, they would be sitting in the pews next to them. And while the New Testament speaks in these verses of congregational singing, it never speaks of anything remotely close to a praise team (or choir, or soloist, or quartet, etc.).

More than twenty-five years ago, I was a member at the Rochester Hills Church of Christ in Rochester Hills, MI, and for a year or two was a member of their praise team. I was actually one of its original members. When we first began, we would sit on the front row, without microphones. Later we decided to use microphones, but to stand in the back of the auditorium, unseen behind a partition. This was, of course, because we were concerned with the reaction of the church. This was something new, so we needed to ease them into it. Not long afterward, we moved back to the front row, only this time mic’d up. And, as you’ve no doubt guessed, shortly thereafter we were on the stage.

What I wondered back then was, if there’s nothing wrong with this practice, why not just teach the brethren of its soundness and importance, then begin the practice on the stage? If the praise team wasn’t doing anything more than the other members were, then why go to such lengths to sneak it in? Why was a praise team even necessary?

[To be continued]

David Ray

[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