

ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 1, 2026

Song: 714 – *Lily of the Valley*

Song: 710 – *More About Jesus*

First prayer: **Larry Simmons**

Song: 787 – *Low in the Grave He Lay*

Communion servers: **Brian Zumalt & Mark Brandt**

Prayer for giving: **Adam Bentley**

Song: 673 – *Sweet By and By*

Sermon: “*The Value of the Colossian Brethren*” (Col. 1:24-29) – **David Ray**

Invitation song: 447 – *Someday You’ll Stand at the Bar on High*

Closing song: 141 – *Blessed Assurance*

Closing prayer: **Mernie Ray**

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- Jerry & Sherlene – health
- Pattie Hutchinson & Bruce Shive (Sue’s siblings) – health concerns
- Tony Lopez, Starlyn Cooper, Carmen Lawson, Kim Nguyen – cancer
- Marjorie Trammel (Alyssa’s friend) – cancer
- Shane, Alyssa, & Addison – adoption process
- Mernie’s sisters-in-law: Kathy Ray (eyesight) and Fannie Ray
- Kim’s cousin’s son (Isaac Wood)–hole in heart caused by stroke (upcoming surgery)
- Our members with health issues: Kim, David

Please continue to remember: Connie Townsend, Lucinda, Vipin & 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)
- www.youtube.com/@churchofChrist

RECORD FOR WEEK OF FEBRUARY 22, 2026

ATTENDANCE:

Bible Class – 11 AM Worship – 11 Sun PM – 9 DBR – Wed (2/25) – 14

Contribution – \$1251

Yukon Church of Christ

THE LABORER

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

Preacher: David Ray

Web Site: www.yukoncofc.com

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 22

Number 9

March 1, 2026

“WITHOUT EXCUSE”

Part Two

What do most people do when they have been caught doing something wrong? They make excuses. Failing to find the time in our lives to know and obey God is the epitome of “wrong,” and it is inexcusable. As the Holy Spirit warns, “*For the invisible things of [God] from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse*” (Romans 1:20). Last week, we saw that “I didn’t know” and “I couldn’t help it” are not legitimate excuses for failing to know and obey God. However, these are not the only “excuses” that fail to excuse.

“**I couldn’t understand the Bible**” is not an excuse. Some say, “The Bible is just too hard for me to understand.” Others argue, “Preachers and theologians do not all understand the Bible alike—how can God expect me to come to a correct understanding of the Bible?” But to make such statements insinuates that God is incapable of communicating as clearly as human beings do. Jesus promised, “*If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free*” (John 8:31-32). Through “continuing” in Christ’s word, that is “cleaving” and “holding fast” to it,¹ one can **know** the truth. This may require some effort, but it can be done (compare with 2 Timothy 2:15). Paul wrote, “*...by revelation [God] made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)*” (Ephesians 3:3-4).

“I had other obligations” is not an excuse. A few years ago, a book was published that was entitled, *Busier Than Ever! Why American Families Can’t Slow Down*. It is at least the common perception that Americans, and likely inhabitants of other lands of the globe, have filled their plates fuller than ever before. Workers are commuting longer distances to work, children are involved in more extracurricular activities, and people are recreating in ways involving greater commitment.

Although Americans are apparently busier than ever, it seems most are actually **accomplishing less** than ever, and this is certainly true on the spiritual front. Whereas Gospel meetings would once typically bring in overflowing crowds, the weeknight sessions of a twenty-first century Gospel meeting do well to bring in over half of the same people who come on Sunday morning and a small handful of additional visitors. Whereas the typical American home once had daily Bible study and devotion, the home that includes such things even weekly or monthly is now the positive exception.

But our busyness fails to excuse our inattention to the things of the Lord. Jesus pictured His kingdom as a great feast, but the people honored with invitations to this extraordinary event *“all with one consent began to make excuse”* (Luke 14:18).

The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come (verses 18-20).

Did the Lord tell His “too-busy” invitees, “I understand—you had other obligations; you had other things to do; you had other places to be. Maybe next time”? Far from it. The Lord is depicted as *“angry”* with them, allowing everyone **but** those initially invited to come to His feast, seething, *“None of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper”* (verse 24). A similar parable Jesus told on another occasion saw yet fiercer wrath attending those who thought their “farms” and “merchandise” more important than responding to the King’s invitation (Matthew 22:1-8).

The Lord made clear to Ahab that being *“busy here and there”* did not excuse Ahab’s negligence of the Lord’s commandment (1 Kings 20:39-40). Jesus told the story of a rich farmer who had achieved material success, no doubt in part because of his diligence and hard work; *“But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?”* (Luke 12:20).

Some consider themselves “too busy” to commit to living the Christian life, whether by initial obedience to the Gospel (Romans 6:3-4, 17) or by the repentance and confession required of an erring child of God (Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9). Some consider themselves “too busy” to attend all the assemblies of the congregation of which they purport to be members (Hebrews 10:25). But the fact is they are not too busy to do that which they find most important. As one observed, “No matter how busy people are, most are never too busy to stop and talk about how busy they are.” Busy people still find the time to go to work; they still find the time to attend their children’s ballgames and other extracurricular events; they still find the time to participate in recreational activities here and there. But what is most important? The rich farmer learned that all his *“goods laid up for many years”* would avail nothing when he had not made preparations for his soul to enter eternity.

It is agreed that one should make the most of his limited time on earth. We should be always *“Redeeming the time, because the days are evil”* (Ephesians 5:16). But one is not making the most of his limited time who is not living every moment for the Lord. James warned,

Go to now, ye that say, To day or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that (James 4:13-15).

Everything we do or plan to do ought to be prefaced with the condition, “If the Lord will.” When man’s primary obligation and purpose in life is to know and serve the Lord (Ecclesiastes 12:13; Matthew 6:33; Acts 17:26-27), “I had other obligations” simply will not suffice as an excuse.

To be continued

Lee Moses

[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