

ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 22, 2026

Song: **377** – *I Love to Tell the Story*

Song: **8** – *A Blessing in Prayer*

First prayer: **Adam Bentley**

Song: **380** – *The Cross of Calvary*

Communion servers: **Larry Simmons & Mernie Ray**

Prayer for giving: **Mark Brandt**

Song: **203** – *Lean on His Arm*

Sermon: “*First Principles in Hebrews 6*” – **Jerry Brewer**

Invitation song: **490** – *Where Will You Live Eternally*

Closing song: **48** – *Nearer, Still Nearer*

Closing prayer: **Chrishawn Thompson**

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- Scott Esk – hospice
- 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 MARCH 15, 2026

ATTENDANCE:

Bible Class – 9 AM Worship – 12 Sun PM – 12 DBR – 2 Wed (3/18) – 15

Contribution – \$4551

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 12

March 22, 2026

“WITHOUT EXCUSE”

Part Five

God expects every accountable human being to come to a knowledge of Him and obey Him. Failure in this would be a failure of immense magnitude, as the day is coming “*when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ*” (2 Thess. 1:7-8). And any human being who has failed to know and obey God will be left without excuse.

“I have limited abilities” is not an excuse. This excuse is only occasionally given for refusing initial obedience to the Gospel, but it is very commonly given for refusing opportunities to serve the Lord. A couple will be asked to make an in-home visit, and they will respond, “We’re not very good at talking with people.” A man will be asked to extend the invitation on a Wednesday night, but begs off, explaining, “I’m not able to speak in front of people.” An entire congregation refuses to practice any level of personal evangelism, claiming they are not as good at it as their preacher is. These excuses may all contain a good degree of truth, but that does not mean that they excuse. One trying to excuse himself from opportunities to serve the Lord forgets that the Christian life is a life of service (Luke 17:7-10; 1 Cor. 15:58; Galatians 6:9-10; Ephesians 2:10; Philemon 11).

Moses tried to excuse himself from the opportunity of a lifetime because of what he portrayed as “limited abilities.” When God called him to address the king of the mightiest nation on earth and to deliver that nation’s slaves from bondage, Moses was reluctant. Perhaps his reluctance is understandable, considering that his

previous efforts on a much smaller scale had failed (Exodus 1:11-15; compare with Acts 7:24-25), and that he had spent the forty years since that failure playing shepherd boy in the wilderness of Midian. So when God calls him to go, Moses releases a barrage of excuses: “*Who am I?*” (Exo. 3:11); “*What shall I say unto [the Israelites]?*” (3:13); “*[The Israelites] will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, the Lord hath not appeared unto thee*” (4:1); and his last humdinger, “*I am not eloquent...I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue*” (4:10). After the Lord has consecutively and patiently refused each of Moses’ excuses, Moses in a final request makes clear that all those excuses were just attempts to get out of serving God: “*And he said, O my Lord, send, I pray thee, by the hand of him whom thou wilt send*” (4:13). In other words, “Just send someone else.”

Moses’ self-assessment of his abilities was far from accurate. Having been reared by Pharaoh’s daughter, he was afforded opportunities for learning and leadership far removed from other Israelites. “*And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds*” (Acts 7:22). Scripture says that Moses was “*mighty in words,*” yet he tried to portray himself as wholly incapable with them. There is a place for modesty (Proverbs 27:2); however, misrepresenting and diminishing one’s own abilities to avoid serving the Lord is dishonest and slothful.

In his excuse-making, Moses was squelching his own ability. Had the Lord not been so insistent, Moses would have remained in the desert of Midian, Israel for the time being would have remained slaves in Egypt, and no one would remember Moses’ name today. Moses, by the providence of God, had become singularly qualified for the task that lay ahead of him. Even Moses’ years as a shepherd in the wilderness would prove an asset, as he would have to shepherd **human** “sheep” another forty years in the wilderness. Moses had certainly lost much of what he had previously—the favor of Pharaoh, wealth, and influence—but things that seemed so insignificant to Moses were of great value in the service of the Lord. “*And the LORD said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, A rod*” (Exodus 4:2). This was a simple walking stick, a shepherd’s staff—yet it became “*the rod of God*” (verse 20). God would miraculously transform his and his brother Aaron’s rods into serpents to serve as a sign to Israel and to Egypt (4:3-5; 7:9-12). Aaron’s rod would change the waters of the Nile into blood (7:20-21). Their rods would bring fearsome plagues of frogs, lice, hail mingled with fire, and an east wind bearing locusts (8:5-6, 16-17; 9:22-26; 10:12-15). Moses’ rod would part the Red Sea (14:16). Holding up Moses’ rod would provide victory over attacking Amalekites (7:9-13). God was able to do great things with what Moses brought to the table, even with the modest skills

and accoutrements of shepherding. That Peter and John were “*unlearned and ignorant men*” was painfully obvious to many (Acts 4:13); but that did not stop them from spreading the Gospel throughout their city and far beyond. No matter what your background is, you have attributes that can be assets in the service of the Lord. You may have tasks that lie ahead in your Christian walk for which you are singularly qualified. Even the “one-talent servant” was expected to utilize his limited “*several ability*” in his lord’s service, and was condemned when he failed to do so (Matthew 25:14-30). The church simply cannot accomplish anything with a universal “let someone else do it” mindset.

When Moses appealed to his limited abilities as an excuse, he expressed distrust in God. Moses pled ineloquence, to which God responded, “*Who hath made man’s mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD? Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say*” (Exodus 4:11-12). Citing limited abilities as an excuse indicts the One who made man. Should we not rather with the psalmist extol God, “*I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well*”? (Psalm 139:14). When we feel inadequate for the Lord’s service, we should each remind ourselves, “*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me*” (Philippians 4:13).

Conclusion

The entire world stands “*without excuse*” for failing to know and obey God. Not only do our “excuses” and “justifications” fail to excuse or justify our wrongdoing and inaction, they discourage us from making the positive change we **need** to make. They discourage us from accomplishing all we are capable of accomplishing. As Benjamin Franklin quipped, “One who is good for excuses is usually good for nothing else.” The Lord has revealed His will in the Gospel; He has provided salvation in His Son Jesus Christ; and He has provided the capacity to do His will in every human being. It is high time to cease our excuses, because we have none.

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