

ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 8, 2026

Song: 11 – Praise Him! Praise Him!

Song: 819 – Victory in Jesus

First prayer: Mernie Ray

Song: 787 – Low in the Grave He Lay

Communion servers: David Ray & Larry Simmons

Prayer for giving: Mark Brandt

Song: 743 – Sowing the Seed of the Kingdom

Sermon: “Gospel Preachers Are Offensive Preachers” – Jerry Brewer

Invitation song: 465 – Are You Washed in the Blood?

Closing song: 775 – To Christ Be True

Closing prayer: Adam Bentley

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- Jerry – voice
- 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:

- Happy anniversary to **Brian & Kim** (today)! Happy birthday to **Mattie** (12th)!
- “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 1, 2026

ATTENDANCE:

Bible Class – 11 AM Worship – 11 Sun PM – 8 DBR – 3 Wed (3/4) – 7

Contribution – \$1451

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

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“WITHOUT EXCUSE”

Part Three

God seeks to reconcile the sinful world to Himself that all mankind might have eternal life, yet not all the world will be reconciled to Him (2 Corinthians 5:18-21; John 5:40). Sadly, many perpetuate their failures to be reconciled to Him by conjuring up excuses, perhaps even believing that those excuses will carry them through on the Day of Judgment. However, excuses for failing to know and obey God do not excuse and will not stand.

“I was afraid” is not an excuse. Many fail to accomplish what they should because of fear. And many believe their fear excuses their failure to accomplish what they should. The “one-talent man,” who hid the one talent of silver with which his lord had entrusted him to make profit, tried to take the edge off of his transgression: “*And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine*” (Matthew 25:25).

Were the one-talent man’s fears justified? He tried to justify his fears and consequent inaction, saying to his master, “*Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strowed: And I was afraid...*” (verses 24-25). He expressed a fear of failure, that he might not turn the profit that his lord expected. He expressed a fear of not being fairly compensated for whatever good business decisions he might make with his lord’s money, that his lord would simply reap and gather what the one-talent man had sown and strowed. But both of his fears were unfounded. He was afraid of failure? His

lord pointed out that he could have invested the money risk-free by putting it in the bank (verse 27). He was afraid of not being fairly compensated? His lord had rewarded the other servants with recompense far exceeding what they had done for their lord: “[T]hou hast been faithful over a **few** things, I will make thee ruler over **many** things” (verses 21, 23; emphasis LM).

Most of our fears are unfounded. Sometimes we create additional threats in our minds to excuse ourselves from doing something. Solomon wrote, *“The slothful man saith, There is a lion without, I shall be slain in the streets...The slothful man saith, There is a lion in the way; a lion is in the streets”* (Proverbs 22:13; 26:13). This is almost as ridiculous as Twain’s “I-need-my-axe-to-eat-soup” excuse. The likelihood of being killed by a lion in the middle of a city street is tremendously low, even in 10th century B.C. Palestine. We worry about what others will think of us if we try to live the Christian life, despite the fact that they will have no say in our final Judgment (Matthew 10:28). We worry about failing in our Christian duties, when we are assured God’s presence to see us through (Matt. 28:20; Romans 8:31-39; Hebrews 13:5-6), and we are assured success if we remain faithful to the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10). With such assurances, Paul reminds Christians, *“Be anxious for nothing”* (Philippians 4:6, New King James Version). The Christian has no reason to be gripped with anxiety and fear, *“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father”* (Romans 8:15). All fear does is counteract faith, stunt spiritual growth, and prevent Christian accomplishment. Edmund Burke observed, “No power so effectually robs the mind of all its powers of acting and reasoning as fear.”

And the Lord will not accept fear as an excuse. The one-talent man attempted to excuse his inaction by fear, but his lord (a picture of **our** Lord) responded by identifying him as a *“wicked and slothful servant,”* instructing other servants, *“Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.... And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth”* (Matthew 25:28-30). Likewise, we are informed, *“The fearful...shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death”* (Revelation 21:8).

“Everybody else is doing it” is not an excuse. This is an attempted excuse that children learn at a fairly young age: “All the other kids’ parents let them stay up until ten o’clock”; “All the other kids’ parents let them watch R-rated movies”; “All the other girls are wearing short shorts”; “All the other kids are going to this dance/drinking party.” This continues into adulthood, as people continue to make excuses to themselves and to God: “Everybody else fudges a little on their taxes”; “Everybody else drives at least 10 m.p.h. over the legally mandated speed limit”; “Everybody else drinks at office parties”; “Everybody else is shacking up before getting married”; “Everybody else sleeps in on Sunday mornings instead of going to Bible class.” Church leaders attempt this excuse to justify introducing religious practices of human origin: “All the denominations use

instrumental music and drama to make worship services more exciting”; “So many brethren are building gymnasiums and dividing assemblies for ‘children’s church,’ why can’t we?”

However, is the legitimacy of an action established by the number of people who do that action? If a little girl falls into a river, and a large crowd standing by does nothing, are they all right to do nothing? What if another man finally walks up, observes the situation, and jumps in and saves the girl—did he do wrong? After all, he did not do what everyone else was doing—or not doing, as the case may be.

The Lord told Israel, *“Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgment”* (Exodus 23:2). This implies that the “multitude” can very well be on the side of evil, and that the “many” can be in favor of perverting justice. But we are not to stand where they stand, or to do what they do. We are exhorted time and again to be **holy**—set apart, distinct, and consecrated to God (2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1; Hebrews 12:14; 1 Peter 1:14-16; et al.). God admonishes us, “You’re **not supposed** to do what everybody else is doing.” As Jesus warned,

Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it (Matthew 7:13-14).

It is not the people doing an action, or the number of people doing an action, that makes that action right or wrong. The action is right or wrong based on what **God** has said about the action (2 Timothy 3:16-17). “If a thing is wrong, it is still wrong even if everybody does do it. If it is right, it is still right even if nobody does it.”¹

For what if some did not believe? Shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged (Romans 3:3-4).

God is right. His word is right (Psalm 33:4). Anybody who suggests that one should follow the crowd rather than God is a liar. And anyone who “loveth” or “maketh” the lies of the multitude rather than the truth of God will be excluded from His heavenly city (Revelation 22:15).

To Be Continued

ENDNOTE

¹Albert Gardner, “Not Who but What.” The Beacon, Bellview Church of Christ, Pensacola, FL. Nov 18, 1982.

Lee Moses