



Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians
Wk. 2 Benefits of Sainthood
By Pastor Jody May 05/05/2025

1 Corinthians 1:25 - For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Uncommon Sense - *"God's Wisdom over man's pride through a Flawed Church."*

[CALL TO HEAR]

1 Corinthians 1:4-9 ESV

Thanksgiving

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—⁶even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Pastor – "People of God, this is the Word of God."

People – "Thanks be to God."

Pray

Illustration

GRACE. ¹χάρις it is to **receive favor**, and act of kindness beyond what is due, usual, and/or not expected, it is **to receive that which you don't deserve**.

We have all experienced this from time to time. You will know it to by the sense of relief you get when it happens. For example, all of us in this room that have been driving for 5 or more years have most likely been pulled over

¹χάρις (charis). n. fem. **grace, good will, favor**. Conveys the sense of a gift of kindness and favor given to a person or persons. This noun is related to the verb χαρίζομαι (charizomai), which conveys the general concept of giving generously or forgiving a debt or a wrong.¹



Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians
Wk. 2 Benefits of Sainthood
By Pastor Jody May 05/05/2025

for a speeding violation. Look don't beat yourself up, it happens to all of us, and if not yet, it will. The point is, most often when people get pulled over you are going to get more than a warning, especially when you are going over more than 10 mph over the speed limit. There are times though, when you will be expecting a consequence, and the officer has decided to let you go with a warning. These verbal reprimands come without any work on your part, without any prior notification, and they come even when you are a sinner and a law breaker, and yet GRACE is given.

You know it's grace too, because of the sense of joy you received for you just got off with a warning. Then the joy is multiplied if you are a guy, you drive a flashy car, and you have been pulled over recently, those facts almost guarantee a ticket! So, when it doesn't come, joy is mixed with shock and disbelief because you can't believe your good fortune! Then in light of this blessing from above the whole way home, guess what, you drive the speed limit. It is like the grace of getting what you don't deserve, a verbal warning, has caused your behavior to change! Now does it keep you from speeding for long? Probably not, because your necessity to get places faster is greater than your necessity to be a law follower, shame on you!

That feeling of Grace though, when you think of it, is intoxicating. As a matter of fact, many of you became charismatic when it happened to you for you were praising God and thanking Him all the way home out loud in your car. Even though you sinned against the laws of our land and against your fellow citizens the power of Grace overshadowed the power of Guilt, and for the rest of that day there was joy.

Introduction

For the Christian this is your life every day, all the good things in your life you have received are done so out of the good will of God, and we are not deserving of it. These acts of favors and freely distributed gifts to God's people are things we could never do for ourselves, nor garner for ourselves, nor can we ever give them back. Yet in the receiving of Divine Grace, the things we don't deserve, it tells the Christian that we indeed have incurred the



Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians

Wk. 2 Benefits of Sainthood

By Pastor Jody May 05/05/2025

favor of God, even in light of being law breakers, just because God chose to favor us!

And in light of all its' shortcomings this is how Paul views the church of 1 Corinth, they are a church that is exhibiting the Gift of Grace, even though they are not living as if they have received it. It is as if they got a speeding ticket in life, they were pulled over by the Spirit of God in AD 51 by the Apostle Paul. He gave them the call to slow their role, they got their call to be saints, the verbal reprimand to the narrow way, and they were released in life. But now a short 3 years later they are speeding their way through life, breaking all the rules, as if they had never been saved. Yet, Paul understands human nature enough to know it takes people a while to understand the extent of the Grace given, what it was actually saving us from, and the road it puts us on.

Last week we looked at the reminder in the greeting of Paul that the people were called to be Saints, they were set apart, sanctified by God, therefore act like it! Let's say it like this, they were given the **general call** first in the preaching of the Gospel, then by God's Grace it was made **effectual** for them. They did not choose to believe for they were dead in their trespasses (Eph 2:1) but they were called to a new resurrected life, that is ALL a work of Grace!

Ephesians 2:5 ESV

⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by **grace** you have been **saved**

This week Paul reminds them of one of the greatest benefits of being a saint and that is you have been granted Grace, the divine favor of God, **in the giving of gifts**, what is needed for life and gospel ministry. Paul, by the Grace of God, is pulling them over once more to give them a verbal warning to remind them how they became a church, who's name they were called in, and how that name above every other name was going to preserve them all the way till the end, to ensure their glorious reunion with the Father. It's good news and it is meant to spur them onto good works and get them back on that narrow path. Let us today heed this letter in the Spirit as it was given, by the Apostle, speaking on behalf of the Lord Jesus, with the full Authority of God behind it, and let us obey showing that we have understood what Grace is.



Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians

Wk. 2 Benefits of Sainthood

By Pastor Jody May 05/05/2025

In light of this today we, along with the Church of Corinth should have several expectations, of the grace of God in our lives, that will also help us for life and gospel ministry. I stand here today and say that for this fallen world that usually to have an expectation placed on you or others will often lead to disappointment. But the glorious news of the Gospel, is when we place expectations on God, based out of the truth of scripture not misguided wants in our hearts, those expectations always come through.

Today we have several of those expectations that come through shining in the text, that come as a verbal reprimand to keep us on the Narrow Way. The first is that we will learn to **expect** God's Grace **to deliver the knowledge you need for living**. Next, we will **expect** God's Grace **to confirm your Salvation and give Hope** in this life. Lastly, we will **expect** God's Grace to **sustain us till the end for God is faithful**. All those things we can leave here, fully expecting them to happen for their completion is based on God's Grace not our work! All of that pointing us to this simple main point.

MP:

His Grace is Enough.

1. Expect God's Grace to **deliver the **knowledge** you need for living.**

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the **grace of God** that was given you **in Christ Jesus**, ⁵that in **every way** you were **enriched in him** in all speech and all knowledge—

- God's Grace is **delivered** only in **Christ**.

Paul gives thanks to God on behalf of the people at Corinth for the Grace they have received. **Why is he giving thanks?** It is to remind them that they didn't figure this out on their own, it was a divine knowledge that only comes from God. You will see in later chapters that Corinthians pride themselves on their knowledge especially on their knowledge of the gods and how they work. That showed up in how they were trying to incorporate other god worship, paganism as Paul calls it (1 Cor 12), into Christianity, and how they were using



Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians
Wk. 2 Benefits of Sainthood
By Pastor Jody May 05/05/2025

their spiritual gifting for their own gain. Pauls' praise in a subtle way, is a verbal reprimand, that the Narrow Way of living comes through Christ alone.

Ephesians 2:8-9 ESV

⁸For **by grace** you have been **saved through faith**. And this is **not your own doing**; it is the gift of God, ⁹**not a result of works**, so that **no one may boast**.

The Corinthians were very prideful and boastful, and prided themselves on how well they could argue.² They were known to make spectacle out of public debate and lauded their display of philosophical thought and argumentation in front of crowds for applause. They would dress to impress with costumes, they would compete in their oration and would even rely on gimmicks and spectacular displays to persuade the crowd into listening to their arguments, not to mention the nasty use of slander against their opponents. This is the crowd that Paul is working with, people who think that coming to faith was based on orators and not the gift of God's Grace for understanding.

BTW this is what many of our modern churches do. They market things like Egg Drops to get the Easter Crowds in, they get bands to do rock/pop songs before the service, they spend millions on building roller coasters, zip lines, and water slides on a stage for teaching aides, they build better coffee bars that put SBs to shame, they market their pastors like social media influencers, all to get you in to hear their presentation of the Gospel. The problem is that the Gospel doesn't need aides in making it compelling. The reason pastors and churches use gimmicks to get people in is because the Gospel they teach is a watered-down version, and it lacks the compulsion and rightful doctrine that you are saved by Grace alone! The doctrine is the problem, the problem is that people are taught you believe the Gospel on the persuasion of the church and not the supernatural work of the HS to open's men's ears and eyes to truth!

Back to our passage now.... *Thanks to God for the **Grace in Christ** -*

⁵that in **every way** you were **enriched in him** in all speech and all knowledge—

² <https://academic.tyndalehouse.com/explore/articles/toxic-leadership-in-corinth/>



Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians
Wk. 2 Benefits of Sainthood
By Pastor Jody May 05/05/2025

God's Grace only **makes sense** through **knowing Christ**.

Paul reminds them the fact they know anything about the Gospel, the fact that you left the world behind and could see the truth in its' fallenness, the fact that you could even begin to explain the Gospel to anyone, is because by Grace they were given the knowledge of God in Christ! Their ability to argue the Gospel was from Christ alone and not based on their oratory skills or ability to do deductive reasoning.

John 1:16-17 ESV

¹⁶ For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; **grace and truth came through Jesus Christ**.

To be saved there must be an understanding that Jesus came by the Grace of God, He whom we don't deserve, and He taught the Truth that all men are sinners, and according to the SoM, He was the fulfillment of all the OT teaching, the law and prophets. That by one man **ALL the requirements of the law** would be lived out for us and through the examination of His life, by the illumination of the HS, people would come to the knowledge of Salvation.

Grace and Truth through Jesus IS the Gospel, and to be saved you have to accept that fact! Paul reminds the Corinthians and us, that if we are truly saved then we understand **that knowledge alone does not save us and knowledge alone given doesn't convince the crowds**. It takes the Grace of God to convince us and others that we NEEDED Jesus to do what we could and would not do and that is live for God!

MP: Being enriched in Jesus means I believe that I have received everything I needed in His Grace alone, and without God moving first to enlighten my mind I would still be lost! His Grace is enough!

That is the message you and I need to share when we deliberate with anyone about God, emphasize a person's need for Grace, and when they reject it then you will know what to pray for, a supernatural understanding!

2. Expect God's Grace to **confirm** and give **hope** in this life.



Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians
Wk. 2 Benefits of Sainthood
By Pastor Jody May 05/05/2025

⁶even as the testimony about Christ was **confirmed** among you— ⁷so that you are not **lacking in any gift**,

- God's Grace helps **confirm Salvation** by using our **spiritual gifts** in the body.

The connection between v.5 *enrichment in speech and knowledge*, + v.7 *so that you are not lacking in any gift*, Points to the fact that spiritual gifts had been delivered to the church after the Gracious gift of Salvation (Chp. 12: 7-11), and that some of those gifts were the knowledge and teaching of the Gospel, it is just at this point the teaching was off, it had additions to it, and therefore its' effectiveness was wanning. What Paul, in a spirit of thanksgiving is saying, is that because you are trying to share those gifts with the church it is a confirmation that yes indeed you did receive the testimony of Christ.

This is a good lesson for us as well this morning. As we mentioned some other types of churches earlier, that don't look like us, that use pragmatic ways to teach and deliver the Gospel, **it does not mean there aren't any saved people there**. It doesn't mean you should judge your worth or the strength of your faith based on what they do or don't do. God still uses churches that are neck deep in the **seeker friendly movement** to save people and teach them the Gospel basics. Be careful then how you speak of our brothers and sisters meaning don't smear Jesus' name, by smearing other Christians, if you must comment on anything.

Instead let us all work towards using our knowledge in here, our God given wisdom, for the sake of one another. Let the sincerity of your faith be shown in how you share your testimony with one another. Let others see you practice what you preach, that you follow your own advice. Then in such a way Paul says, that is a good indication and **confirmation** that your faith is real. Having real saving faith is not based in the church you attend, although it is helpful, but perhaps a good standard on whether a church is healthy is do you see people there sharing the Gospel with one another, not just the pastor.



Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians
Wk. 2 Benefits of Sainthood
By Pastor Jody May 05/05/2025

God's Grace **instills hope** in **Jesus' return**.

[⁶ even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift,—]

7b ...as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ,

While we are here on earth, we are called to live in community. Pastor Onan is going to speak on this more next week opening up the topic of **church unity**, but we have to remember this fact, **this letter was written to a church not an individual**. The '**you**' in the text is a 2nd person personal pronoun, it is a group of people, it is plural. That means '**we**' are practicing giving each other the Godly wisdom of God, strengthening our faith confirming in us that yes indeed we are saved.

Then the reality as we do this together, that action of living out our lives in fellowship is what gives HOPE to US. In other words, we are strengthened by living together, practicing the Gospel together, Hoping in the return of Jesus together, waiting for His glorious return together, that's called encouragement! Your best deliverance system of Hope is given in accordance with communal living as one body!

It is God's Grace that gives us this family, it is God's Grace that makes you struggle when you rather not be around people. It is God's Grace that puts you around others that call you out on your sin. It is God's Grace when you sigh and roll your eyes at others in the church for that means we are persevering. It is God's Grace that over the years that teaches you how to live with others. It is God's Grace that gets you to care about what others feel, laughing at what others rejoice over, and crying over what others grieve about.

ALL those actions are Gracious for it makes us all endure to the end where we wait patiently together for the return of our Lord who will make all things right in justice for the world and rewards for His people. **It is hard to have hope when you are the only one trying to muster it up**. It's all together another story when everyone around you says don't give up, keep the faith, Jesus is alive, His return will happen, and it will all be worth it! You and I need this church!



Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians
Wk. 2 Benefits of Sainthood
By Pastor Jody May 05/05/2025

The best days in a church are not only the days where she gets to greet new members, and witnesses births and cries of new life, but also when she gets to bury her own, for they know that person made it to glory, and the body was a part of that work. That is HOPE! That is ALL a gift of Grace!

MP: God's Grace is Enough, but the place you were meant to **discover** and **experience** it is **in the church!**

3. Expect God's Grace to **sustain** us till the **end** for God is **faithful**.

⁸who (Jesus) will sustain you to the end, **guiltless** in the **day** of **our Lord Jesus Christ**.

- God's gift of Grace is never **rescinded** keeping us **guiltless** for **judgment day**.

John 10:28-30 ESV

I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. ³⁰I and the Father are one."

Grace is the fact that for those that have received the effectual calling by grace, Jesus is the guarantor that you will make it to Heaven with Him. Yes, you may have some bad times, yes you may do what we call in the south a little *back sliding* but know for the Christian Jesus will pull you out of that rebellion and turn you back to Him. A shepherd never rests from keeping the flock and He does this for all His sheep, even the old and scraggly ones, He always brings them home. Again, though I want to point out the thrust of this thanksgiving by Paul, is that happens when people tough it out in the church not away from it. Jesus always brings wayward people back to a fold not to sit in a pen by themselves. So how does this actually work?

Ephesians 1:13-14 ESV



Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians
Wk. 2 Benefits of Sainthood
By Pastor Jody May 05/05/2025

¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were **sealed** with the promised **Holy Spirit**, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

The promise is that for those that are made saints, the HS Himself marks you, you are sealed by His presence in your life. Here's what I know about that, His presence will always drive you back to confession/repentance, and to have those actions you usually need to do that with people. The person that is sealed by the HS will desire to be around those that also have Him in their lives. God, for those that are His, will keep you justified all the way to the end, Guiltless, but He usually does do this through our lives together.

Now let's look at the last thing we learn from our expectations.

⁹ God is **faithful**, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

God's Gift of Grace is based on **God's faithfulness not yours.**

Lamentations 3:22-23 ESV

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your **faithfulness**.

God is faithful for while He is Gracious, He is also merciful, meaning He will always withhold from His people what they really deserve because that has eternally been placed on Christ. That reality exists every morning when you wake up, your conscious should be clean, your strength should be renewed, your confidence is in God's faithfulness not yours. Whatever happens today is not punishment for sin, you have forever been redeemed.

2 Thessalonians 3:3 ESV

But the Lord is **faithful**. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one.



Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians
Wk. 2 Benefits of Sainthood
By Pastor Jody May 05/05/2025

Knowing this empowers you to face your world, you will face the schemes of man, you will come against the forces of darkness, you will confront your own sin every day, but take heart, Jesus has prayed for you just as He did Peter. Satan will be allowed to sift us family like wheat, just know it will not destroy you; it will build your character which always produces hope (Rom 5:3-5), it will make the devil look foolish, and it will all bring glory to God!

MP: We have all received Grace upon Grace, and it is enough, because it is based in God's faithfulness to His Son's name, not in our faithfulness to works of obedience. Praise God!

[CALL TO OBEY]

Worried about your Salvation? Commit to practicing what you know with the body you have been brought to.

This keeps all of us from window-shopping for churches and being attracted to the shining things we like. Most people go to church worried about their eternal security of them and their family, and what Paul says, is **what confirms your faith is the act of using your gifts for the body**. Family, if you go to a church that makes it easy to disappear in and makes you comfortable with no commitments you are adding to your worry not taking away from it.

Lacking Hope in a better future for your life? Then spend more time not less with God's people.

Hope grows when we are around people who are enduring life one day at a time just like you are. When I talk to everyone in this room, I quickly discover that there is not one person in here that has mastered life yet. That tells me we all need each other and the hope we bring to each other, so that we may all reach our glorious end.

Spend time thanking God every day that He will be the one to pull you through.



Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians
Wk. 2 Benefits of Sainthood
By Pastor Jody May 05/05/2025

If we know that we have been sealed by the HS, and that no one can snatch us from Jesus' hands, then let's practice that type of faith. Perhaps instead of not knowing how to pray for your day, spend the time in adoration knowing God will get you through, and praise Him for that before you ever leave home!

MP:

His Grace is Enough.

Prayer

Communion

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 ESV

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Today when you eat of the bread remember the life of Jesus which was lived for us. Jesus lived a life of obedience, and it is by the Grace of God that He sent the HS to us, to open our eyes to how that life was lived for us, to help us understand that we need both the Grace and Truth to be saved and now lives in us persevering in us to our end. Praise be to Him for His wonderful Grace.

Today when you drink the juice remember the cost of our sin displayed by His blood for the new covenant. It was the Grace of God allowing His Son to take our place on the cross and it was the Mercy of God to bestow on Him the price for our sins. And now by Grace we have been placed in the hands of our redeemer, so we are never lost. Praise be to Him for His wonderful love!

[CONFESSION OF FAITH]

* The Congregation will stand



Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians
Wk. 2 Benefits of Sainthood
By Pastor Jody May 05/05/2025

Elder – “Christians, what do we believe?”

Congregation -

Titus 2:11-14 ESV

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

[OFFERING+LAST SONG]

[BENEDICTION]

Go in the name of the Father that has provided all the Grace we will ever need in His only begotten Son.

Go in the name of the Son, that grants us the blessings of Grace living under His protection and care.

Go in the name of and power of the HS, that opens our eyes to the miracles of Grace, and who goes with us to open the eyes of others when we share this good news.



Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians
Wk. 2 Benefits of Sainthood
By Pastor Jody May 05/05/2025

[BIBLIOGRAPHY]

Akin, Daniel L. and Merritt, James. [*Exalting Jesus in 1 Corinthians*](#) (Christ - Centered Exposition Commentary. (Brentwood, TN: B&H Publishing, 2023).

Ciampa, Roy E. and Rosner, Brian S. [*The First Letter to the Corinthians*](#), The Pillar New Testament Commentary. (Grand Rapids, MI; Cambridge, U.K.: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2010).

MacArthur, John. Topical Sermon Series. Grace to You Ministries. *The Benefits of Being a Saint*. <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/1811/the-benefits-of-being-a-saint> (April 20, 1975), Web 2025.

Prior, David. [*The Message of 1 Corinthians*](#). Revised Edition. Editor John Stott. (Downers Grove, IL: Inter Varsity Press, 2020).

Schreiner, Thomas. [*1 Corinthians: An Introduction and Commentary*](#) (Vol 7) Tyndale NT Commentaries. (Downers Grove, IL: Inter Varsity Press, 2018).

[*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016).