



Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians
Wk. 7 God's Wisdom and His Will for its' Discovery
By Pastor Jody May 06/08/2025

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 2:6-16 ESV
Wisdom from the Spirit

⁶Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written,

"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,

nor the heart of man imagined,

what God has prepared for those who love him"—

¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. ¹³And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

¹⁴The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. ¹⁶"For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

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

People - "Thanks be to God."

Pray



Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians
Wk. 7 God's Wisdom and His Will for its' Discovery
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Illustration

I once had a friend whose ultimate goal in his life was to make a Million Dollars. What he meant by that was that he wanted to have his home paid for, his business ledger in the green and a million in cash in the bank, saved up, tucked away, not earmarked for another expenditure. He was a painter by trade in West Palm who was venturing out into minor construction work. Back in the late nineties, if you had half a brain, and were willing to work hard, that was a very achievable goal. Now I have since lost contact with him, so I don't know if he ever achieved that dream, but that is not the point of my story today. What I want to point out is where that got him.

This friend of mine and I you see use to frequent the same places. We spent a lot of time on the Island of Palm Beach back in the 90s. We would frequent the same places where the rich would eat and hang out on the weekends, and you know when you do that enough you kind of start wondering what it would be like to live like this not just on the weekends but every day of your life. Well, if that is something you want to shoot for you start studying what those type of people read and are involved in. By doing so you can learn about their investments, their business dealings, their associations, and in doing so you can gain a lot of wisdom on how to make your life look like theirs. My friend learned what he could in the local construction business around town and struck out on his own.

He ended marrying a sweet gal from a good Christian home. If you knew my friend yeah you would definitely say he married way out of his league, but she loved him. At this point in time, they are still together. They live modestly, they have some pets, a home, but no children. They don't really go to church anymore, my friend became very cynical of people, and well, they really don't stay in touch with folks, not even us. The point of it all, is that we all started out in the same church together as young adults, but we each used the wisdom of this world to accomplish different things, and well my friend used the wisdom he garnered to head towards a goal that he thought would make him happy.



Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians
Wk. 7 God's Wisdom and His Will for its' Discovery
By Pastor Jody May 06/08/2025

I wonder now that if what he and she had was really saving faith. They will leave no lineage, no lasting mark on this world, and the goal he leaned into had no lasting value. Here's what it required of him. He had to make choices like not to have kids to make his dreams come true, he had to make choices not to pursue God first over all, or Christian relationships not to make those dreams come true. In trying to gain his dreams he may have ended up losing out on his chance on eternal life.

Folks that's what happens when you look at the wise of the world and you try to learn their lessons. Their advice, their strategies, their values did not gain them eternal life, if you study their lives, you will learn they lost more than they ever received. To gain an earthly life that gives the illusion that you "finally made it" you are going to have to surrender a lot to achieve that. As a matter of fact, let me say it to you this way, you cannot pursue the things of this world, and try to hold onto your Christianity in the process, you almost for sure will lose it every time. Yes, there are well off Christians, but if you study their life in depth, the ones that have strong marriages and give more away than they receive, you will come to learn that their first pursuits were of the Kingdom of God not of the world, money, or fame. Pursuits of that kind for the sake of it will always pull you away from God. That's the wisdom of this world, that's a dead end, that way will damn you.

Introduction

Over the last several weeks we have been studying the Wisdom of God, where does it lie, what is it rooted in, all for the purpose of uniting the church in pursuit of it. Not to gain wealth, not to gain prestige, not to gain notoriety, but to gain our souls, to gain a corporate identity as the church, to unite us all in the goal to glorify God together. The Wisdom of God is to bind His people together not in the pursuit of their own worldly dreams, that will lead to dead ends, but to unite us in one dream, **to see God high and lifted up in our lives drawing all men unto Him**. As Bill described for us last week this Ultimate Wisdom is seen in the Cross of Christ. God used that which seemed foolish to the eyes of man, to save mankind, to glorify Himself, but what we will see in the text today, is that it is unnatural for the common man to see it.



Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians
Wk. 7 God's Wisdom and His Will for its' Discovery
By Pastor Jody May 06/08/2025

The Wisdom of God is not like the Wisdom of the rich in Palm Beach, you just don't pick up the Bible, read it like Money magazine, get some truths from it and strike on out on your own to make your way in this world. You know why? Because when you do that, you show you don't know what you're looking for! God's Word is not a Quick Rich scheme, it is not a road map for a fruitful physical existence, it is the revelation of the story of God in the life of Christ and when realized, it will make men and women alike forget why they started looking for in the first place. They will discover that their goals have changed, their desires are no longer for their best life now, they don't care how much they have when they die. They just want to spend all their time now making much of God and are happy to die doing that, even if it means they have no worldly riches when it is done!

BUT here's the problem we run into today, no one the Bible says, has the ability to understand God's Wisdom on their own.

Romans 11:33 ESV

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

³⁴ "For who has known the mind of the Lord,
or who has been his counselor?"

³⁵ "Or who has given a gift to him
that he might be repaid?"

³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

Thanks be to God though that those who really want to know Him, God is willing to show Himself to you!

James 1:5 ESV

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

Let us all today be in prayer that we can leave here fully perceiving the wisdom of God for in doing so, tells one a lot about the direction they are heading in this life. So, I want to spend some time today and show us how we



Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians
Wk. 7 God's Wisdom and His Will for its' Discovery
By Pastor Jody May 06/08/2025

receive this wisdom of God, three important truths to take in. **The first is God decides who will receive this wisdom.** God didn't put out there a hidden manifesto for you to discover and then you get to decide if you want it. God decided way before you were ever born as to who will receive His wisdom, as to who would receive Grace. **Secondly, we will see HOW God gives His Wisdom, and he does so by His Spirit.** The HS, the third person of the trinity, is the person of the Godhead that delivers life changing wisdom in the form of truth that cannot be denied by our hearts and minds. **Thirdly, we will see that only Spiritual People can understand God's Wisdom,** that's code for people that have been saved by the regeneration of the HS work in their lives. These three points are going to help us build up our one main point, the summation of these few verses today.

MP:

**The Wisdom of God comes not from man,
that only His children may understand.**

God's Wisdom, the understanding of it, will only land on and be received by His children. That's what makes it God's Wisdom, only His people understand it and benefit from it, the world will just look at it as folly. I pray today that you all leave full of joy knowing or perhaps discovering for the first time the wisdom of God, in how He saves desperate sinners.

1. God decides who will receive His wisdom.

⁶Yet among the **mature** we do **impart wisdom**, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God **decreed before the ages** for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written,
"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the heart of man imagined,
what God has prepared for those who love him"—

In this first point Paul is going to build out for us the concept that Wisdom that comes from God is something He decides on, not you. The first clue is the 'we', in v.6, that is the Apostles, are the givers of this wisdom. True wisdom of God



Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians
Wk. 7 God's Wisdom and His Will for its' Discovery
By Pastor Jody May 06/08/2025

comes from true sources. Only those who were witnesses to the resurrected Christ were the first ones that truly understood, because the wisdom of the cross was revealed by Christ Himself to the Apostles. Paul is like you need to trust firsthand information from the men that were supernaturally changed and empowered by God for the sake of delivering this good news. That's why you cannot believe that all religions get to God, or that Salvation is not something that can be figured out like a math formula, or that you can find answers in new age Karma behavior plans, none of the Apostles believed that and neither should you.

Paul says 'we' impart wisdom σοφία (*sophia*). n. fem. **wisdom**. *Refers to the quality of having knowledge, skill, and experience in the sense of mastery over a particular subject or trade through practice and learning.* Paul is like look, if the Gospel is to be explained you should listen to those that have been granted a sense of mastery over it. This type of wisdom the Greeks recognized was not just the culmination of knowledge, but **it was the accompaniment of time and experience with such knowledge that shows the ability to wield that knowledge**. Paul is like by that very definition why are you listening to people who DO NOT then have this Wisdom because they have not the time nor experience under their belts, by your definition that is not wise!

For us doesn't that strike you strange how the evangelical world always falls into trouble again and again, when a young pastor or a young seminary teacher thinks that they have figured out a new perspective on scripture? Or that they have developed a new technique for winning souls and evangelism? Or that they have abandoned the old ways of our forefathers for something new and better? Pastoring, and teaching need to have both the knowledge of the Gospel and a collection of time and experiences that shows how God works in people's lives.

Now the rest of this passage speaks to a wisdom that comes not from **this age**. I was reading [Dr. Sam Waldron's](https://www.heritagebooks.org/products/the-end-times-made-simple-waldron.html?srsId=AfmBOooldNFrJwFkOMYog6H3do_2rjllvVev6v6WPMTgRkMtHSI6UXSP), president and professor of Systematic Theology at [Covenant Baptist Theological Seminary](https://www.amazon.com/Doctrine-Last-Things-Optimistic-Amillennial/dp/173385178X?source=ps-sl-shoppingads-lpcontext&ref_=fplfs&psc=1&smid=A1KPGUA2A0MTC8), work last week in [eschatology](https://www.amazon.com/Doctrine-Last-Things-Optimistic-Amillennial/dp/173385178X?source=ps-sl-shoppingads-lpcontext&ref_=fplfs&psc=1&smid=A1KPGUA2A0MTC8)¹², where he does a great job in explaining what the Bible means

¹ https://www.heritagebooks.org/products/the-end-times-made-simple-waldron.html?srsId=AfmBOooldNFrJwFkOMYog6H3do_2rjllvVev6v6WPMTgRkMtHSI6UXSP

² https://www.amazon.com/Doctrine-Last-Things-Optimistic-Amillennial/dp/173385178X?source=ps-sl-shoppingads-lpcontext&ref_=fplfs&psc=1&smid=A1KPGUA2A0MTC8



Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians
Wk. 7 God's Wisdom and His Will for its' Discovery
By Pastor Jody May 06/08/2025

when you hear talk about the different ages of the earth. The Bible describes the earth in 2 ages, the first one is the fallen state, it is the old age, and the other is the future state, that the return of Christ will bring in. Then not to be confusing we have a little foretaste of the future state that came with Christ the first time, because now we have the HS with us, blessing the world around God's people, but it is not a completed work, with the majority of change again coming at the return of Christ. With that knowledge let's go back to our text.

although it is not a wisdom of this age (what the Apostles impart) or of the rulers of this age (most likely referring to human religious/philosophical leaders not demonic thrones), who are doomed to pass away (Doomed that is eternally, Why? Because their wisdom does not save, it is of the old age or fallen state of the world). ⁷But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God **decreed before the ages** for our glory. (Ok so now we are getting into new territory, there was a secret knowledge that was discovered not in the current age but that came before this fallen world, even creation – Meaning it was not contrived by man, it did not originate with man's understanding in the present age, but it must come straight from God for this wisdom was pre-time, and it was done to add weight to the mature, the called, the saint)

It says in the LBCF 1689 3.1 of God's Decree

"From all eternity God decreed everything that occurs, without reference to anything outside himself." - **LBCF 1689 3.1 of God's Decree**

That truth supported by:

Isaiah 64:10 ESV

declaring the end from the beginning

and from ancient times things not yet done,

saying, 'My counsel shall stand,

and I will accomplish all my purpose,'

Back to the text:

⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this (because they can only understand and see this present age), for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. (Which Jesus testifies to in Luke 23:34 "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." ⁹But, as it is written, (Then this



Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians
Wk. 7 God's Wisdom and His Will for its' Discovery
By Pastor Jody May 06/08/2025

last phrase here Paul is quoting Isaiah 64:4 – who out of all the OT writers along with Daniel were getting some pretty good revelation from God on the age before the ages)

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the heart of man imagined,
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

What we can walk away with here is that truly God alone is the one that decides who will understand the message of the Gospel, for the plan of the Gospel was conceived outside of regular time and decreed set forth into the future. Failure to grasp the Gospel comes from the misconception that fallen man can understand the message of the Cross and Salvific history on his own to make a decision. We are creatures of this fallen age, we cannot do that, it takes a supernatural revealing that must be first compelled by the will of God for this is a Wisdom that He must give to those He chose before time.

Acts 4:28 ESV (as Peter declared at Pentecost)

to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place

Romans 8:28-30 ESV (as Paul spoke of prehistory wisdom)

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Ephesians 1:5-7 ESV

he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,

Family do not put your hope in this world, nor its' rulers, nor its' teachers, nor its' philosophers BUT rather put your hope in the Cross! The Wisdom that was



Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians
Wk. 7 God's Wisdom and His Will for its' Discovery
By Pastor Jody May 06/08/2025

revealed to us by the Apostles, that yes indeed if you have believed on Jesus for Salvation, **it was because God chose to save you particularly before you were ever born!** It was done that way so that Paul says, that along with 2 weeks ago we may boast in God alone (1:31), But it does give you GLORY! It gives you weight, it lifts up the witless, the lowly, it makes you stand out in society and culture when the world cannot grasp why you are doing so good when you have rejected the wisdom of this age! That is your testimony!

Family it may be a hard truth to receive and understand when it is first presented this way, but that does not mean it is not true. The wisdom of man says that can't be true because according to this fallen age, man is the maker of his destiny, he is smart enough to figure it out, he has the will to make Salvation happen. What scripture says that before time your destiny was sealed by God, for He knew you would not be able to do it in your fallen state being that you are in this present age. This is then confirmed and glorified when the Christian accepts that truth above his own truth based in this age. The acceptance of this, the living in the grace of that truth, shows that you have indeed received it.

Emphasis of the main point: God decides who will receive His Wisdom not man, for he is of this age therefore he cannot understand.

2. God reveals His wisdom by His Spirit.

¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

So how does this knowledge get to us, that is what this next section answers for us. Paul says it is the Spirit, that is the HS, the third person of the Trinity reveals it to us for it is, Paul says, He alone that can understand the depths of God. **It takes God to understand God.** Again, all of Paul's speech here is pointing to Isaiah 64 which talks about the impossibility of understanding



Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians
Wk. 7 God's Wisdom and His Will for its' Discovery
By Pastor Jody May 06/08/2025

God. Since the only one that can understand God is God, therefore it must take God to make the knowledge knowable to you.

He of course uses the example that in all people, the only one that can ever understand a person is the person themselves. **"For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him?"** In counseling you might find this surprising, but we are taught to talk less and listen more, we are taught to look for information, incongruencies, and self-illusions. Then we begin to ask more questions about those things finally bringing about to the person not the great thing the counselor learned but to a point of self-awareness. We try to get the counselee to say truths that about themselves that came from the process of dialogue.

Now the Biblical counselor is able to apply the scripture to this practice to help rebuild one's identity in Christ. Secular counseling all it can offer is how and when the dysfunction happened, offering suggestions to combat false identities. Only the power of the Gospel can change a man by giving him a new identity in Christ. That's why I left the secular therapeutic field, there was no real power for change in it. Don't get me wrong modern counseling has developed helpful tools for diagnosing and self-evaluation but as far as making a person whole, it cannot do that. Why? Because **counseling is rooted in and works from the wisdom of this age**, it cannot hold the answers for Salvation. That comes from without oneself because that is only wisdom that God holds.

The danger is that modern counseling, if not infused with a biblical root, exasperates the fallen condition of man. It looks for what went wrong in the person's life only to blame the root cause on other people, or environment, or simple bad luck. Modern counseling has furthered the escalation of victimhood which is why we see the rise in modern counseling, psychotropic meds, and illegal drug use because everyone likes the idea of the reason they are a mess is because someone hurt them. It then removes totally the responsibility of behavior, life choices, and false views of reality away from the victim because they never look at the problem from their own sense of sin. Their desires are not the problem, the world is the problem! That is old age thinking, that says you are your own god, the world owes you, and you



Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians
Wk. 7 God's Wisdom and His Will for its' Discovery
By Pastor Jody May 06/08/2025

should do whatever it takes to make yourself happy now. I guess it may even lead us to a conclusion **that counseling without the Bible leads to the ever-growing problem of personality disorders.**

Paul says,

¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

God wants us to not be left in the dark, He wants to bring us clarity, but He is going to do it through His ordinary means of scripture, and the preaching of His word and that is what the Spirit uses to bring us to life. **Regeneration always precedes Conversion remember that!** As Jesus teaches us, and you should read that for yourself, you must be born again of the Spirit John 3.

MP reemphasized again:

The Wisdom of God comes not from man, that only His children may understand. How? – Because the Spirit of God knows the mind of God and is the only one capable of showing God's desire to save and love others into submission.

So, we covered **when** this happened, before time, and the **how**, that is by the Spirit, and now we will look at the '**to whom**'.

3. God gives His wisdom to spiritual people.

¹⁴ The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

Just pause for a moment, Paul does a great recap of everything we have just covered. The natural person, the one born into this age, the person that only sees with the wisdom of this world, cannot accept the things of God. That requires a spiritual discernment

¹⁵ The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one.



Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians
Wk. 7 God's Wisdom and His Will for its' Discovery
By Pastor Jody May 06/08/2025

The spiritual person, the person that has received the wisdom of God is now called on, to judge all things, and should not accept the judgment placed on them by this world. The Gospel gives to us, by God choosing to work this way, the freedom to no longer be identified by this world. Family we may still face consequences for law breaking that is a natural thing prescribed by God, but we are no longer to accept condemnation, humiliation, nor degradation from this world for we no longer operate in the way this world thinks.

Oh, sure people will still call you names, people will still deride you, make fun of you, and all manner of offenses can and will be launched at you. But hear me family you are NEVER to take that as truth! You are a Spiritual child of God and no one that is a child of this world may judge you by their standard! You are more than them by grace! Instead, you are called on to judge this world, to see it for what it is, and to act accordingly. You are called to see the world now as Christ sees it.

¹⁶“For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

Again, Paul is quoting Isaiah 40, who has understood the mind of the Lord? NO one in this age. But those that are spiritually renewed they are blessed in Christ, they can see it, for they are God's children now!

Galatians 3:29 ESV

And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Bringing us back home to this point this morning.

**The Wisdom of God comes not from man,
that only His children may understand.**

[CALL TO OBEY]

Spend time in prayer asking for Wisdom instead of asking worldly blessings.



Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians
Wk. 7 God's Wisdom and His Will for its' Discovery
By Pastor Jody May 06/08/2025

Proverbs 16:6 ESV

How much better to get wisdom than gold! To get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.

Always start off with trying to gain more Wisdom of God. That will fuel your desires for what is next in your life. If you start going towards a goal without first considering how it helps you live for the Lord, you may find yourself getting sidetracked or even led away into dangerous pursuits. The more you seek God in His Word, in His preaching, in this family, the more things in your life will make sense.

Spend time thanking God when you are persecuted for your beliefs.

Luke 6:26 ESV

"Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets."

When people have nothing critical to say to you then you know that you have spent way too much time working on trying to please people, using the Wisdom of this age. Instead, when you are persecuted and admonished for what you believe thank God for it shows you have been given the Spiritual Wisdom of God from before the ages.

Spend time reading on what the Spiritual person looks like and practice what you learn, displaying Wisdom.

See Galatians 5:16-26

MP:

**The Wisdom of God comes not from man,
that only His children may understand.**

Family may God so bless us with His Wisdom today as is shown by: our belief in the Gospel, our reliance on the Cross, and our hope in the resurrection and our joy in the vindication of our King Jesus.

Prayer

Communion



Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians
Wk. 7 God's Wisdom and His Will for its' Discovery
By Pastor Jody May 06/08/2025

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. Christ lived a life that embodied the Wisdom of God. He lived a life as the obedient servant, because we wanted to live like our own King. He lived the life of a humble older brother, while we lived as if we were an only child. By his obedience and submission, we have been saved. Praise be to Him for His Wise Ways.

Today when you drink the juice remember the cost of our sin displayed by His blood for the new covenant. The penalty for our sin required the payment of death, the penalty for our selfishness was supplied by a selfless act, the penalty for our foolishness was supplied by our wisest King. Praise be to Him for His wonderful love.

[CONFESSION OF FAITH]

* The Congregation will stand

Elder – "Christians, what do we believe?"

Congregation - recites the LBCF Chapter 3 Section 6. God Saves the Elect Through Means

By his eternal and completely free purpose of his will, God has both appointed the elect to glory and foreordained all the means through which they will be saved. 13 The elect, who are fallen in Adam, are redeemed by Christ 14 and are effectually called to faith in Christ by his Spirit working at the appropriate time. The elect are justified, adopted, sanctified, 15 and kept by his power



Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians
Wk. 7 God's Wisdom and His Will for its' Discovery
By Pastor Jody May 06/08/2025

through faith to salvation. 16 The elect are the only people who are redeemed by Christ, effectually called, justified, adopted, sanctified, and saved. 17

13. 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Thessalonians 2:13

14. 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10

15. Romans 8:30; 2 Thessalonians 2:13

16. 1 Peter 1:5

17. John 10:26, 17:9, 6:64

[OFFERING+LAST SONG]

[BENEDICTION]

Go in the name of the Father, who hid His wisdom from the world all the while ensuring that His children would never miss it.

Go in the name of the Son, that embodies the Wisdom of God so that we may receive the full blessings of God.

Go in the name of and power of the HS, that opens our eyes to the Wisdom of God, the History of Salvation and our places in it, now go share this precious wisdom with others.



Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians
Wk. 7 God's Wisdom and His Will for its' Discovery
By Pastor Jody May 06/08/2025

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