

The Potter's Christian Life Center

SERMON NOTES
with Pastor Greg Formey



Out Maneuvering Evil

1 Corinthians 2:6-8

Sunday, November 9, 2025

6 Yet 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. 7 But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. 8 None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ESV

Louvre Heist - in plain sight

The cross looked like the end of Jesus. Soldiers laughed. Leaders sneered. Crowds stared. But Paul says there was a deeper plan. God hid His wisdom in plain sight. He let proud powers take their best shot, then turned that very act into their defeat.

In royal courts of the ancient world, kings guarded secret plans in council and revealed them at the right moment. God did the same. The plan looked weak, but it was perfect. The rulers misread it. They walked into the wisdom of God.

HIDDEN WISDOM

Garden of Eden - the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was almost irresistible. Attractive to the eye, good for food and sustenance, and a source of insight. Good things, but not good for you.

Paul teaches that God's wisdom is not from this age or its rulers. It is a secret, set before the ages for our glory. The rulers are passing away. God's plan, once hidden, is now revealed in Christ, and it quietly overturns proud powers today.

"Secret and hidden wisdom" points to *mystērion*, a revealed secret. "Are doomed to pass away", to nullify or bring to nothing,, showing an ongoing undoing. The powers are being acted upon. God's revelation in Christ steadily empties their claims.

The Sanhedrin council sat in a semicircle to weigh cases. Rome prized public honor, strong speeches, and visible victory. God chose a crucified Messiah, which seemed weakness to the Jews, shameful to Romans and foolish to Greeks. Yet through what looked weak, He moved with royal skill.

Joseph's story ends with this line: "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good" (Genesis 50:20, ESV).

The brothers planned harm. God was weaving rescue. The same God works behind scenes that seem dark to us.

Where might God be working a quiet plan in your life that does not look wise yet?

WISDOM THROUGH WEAKNESS

Ever thought, "If I knew then what I know now...."?

None of the rulers understood. If they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. Their violent plan became God's pathway. The cross looked weak, yet it was God's wisdom. By that death, He disarmed the powers and opened glory for believers everywhere.

Rome meant crucifixion to be a shame parade. God flipped it. The cross became a throne. The placard over Jesus head became His true title. Evil meant to humiliate Christ. God used it to unmask dark powers and show their limits before heaven and earth.

Romans posted charges above the condemned, and staged triumphal parades to show total control. Paul borrows that image when he says...

Colossians 2:15

In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross. NLT

In chess (or checkers), a wise player may sacrifice a piece that looks important. The opponent grabs it and smiles, only to realize the king is trapped. The cross looked like loss, but it set the board for God's checkmate.

Probing question: What feels like weakness in your life that God may be turning into a doorway for victory?

Acts 2:23

This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. ESV

Ephesians 3:10

So that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ESV

Conclusion

The rulers misread the Messiah. They saw nails and mocked. God saw a throne and acted. His hidden wisdom has now been revealed in Christ. Trust Him when the plan looks small. Walk in courage. The Lord of glory has turned the worst moment into the world's hope.