

Coram Deo

Living Beneath God's Gaze

Hillcrest Bible Church

Local Group Study

Fall 2023

Meeting Information

In-person group meets at the home of David & Karen Haas

Zoom group: [click this to JOIN the meeting on Zoom](#)

To join by phone:

- 1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- Meeting ID: 465 396 9144
- Password: 706969

Weekly Meeting Plan

Preparation:

Read and meditate on the designated Scripture and be prepared to discuss the questions below.

7:00 – 7:05: Memory Work

7:05 – 7:40

Read the designated Scripture(s) together, and discuss the questions provided.

7:40 – 8:00

Prayer

Overview and Study Notes

Absolutely nothing escapes the gaze of God!

The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good –
Proverbs 15:3

Hell and destruction are before the LORD; so how much more the hearts of the sons of
men? – Proverbs 15:11

For He looks to the ends of the earth, and sees everything under the heavens. – Job
28:24

And no creature is hidden from His sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of
Him to Whom we must give account. – Hebrews 4:13

As a Christian, this truth of *coram Deo* – living beneath God’s gaze, or before the face of God –
is a tremendously impactful concept. Unlike the lost, we do not shrink before the gaze of God.
Rather, in it we find awe, comfort, awakening of the conscience, strength for the journey, and
much more.

It is in the face of Jesus Christ, shining upon us and within us, that we come to truly understand
the glory of God (2 Corinthians 4:6). And as we live beneath His gaze, beholding Him with
unveiled face, we are transformed into that same image, from one degree of glory to another (2
Corinthians 3:18).

In this short series, we will examine several aspects of *coram Deo* – what it means to live
beneath God’s gaze.

For a man's ways are before the eyes of the Lord, and He ponders all his paths. –
Proverbs 5:21

Study Schedule

September 6

Psalm 8

The Wonder of *Coram Deo*

Memory work: Psalm 139:1-3

Study questions:

- *Where does mankind rank amidst the marvels of creation?*
- *Of what part of God's creation is He most mindful?*
- *What attribute(s) of God make it surprising and wonderful that we live "coram Deo?"*

September 13

Psalm 14, 1 Samuel 16:7

God's Assessment of Humanity

Memory work: Psalm 139:1-3

Study questions:

- *Why does God look down from heaven?*
- *What are some of the most notable attributes of humanity according to Psalm 14?*
- *How is it possible for God's people to rejoice, in spite of this assessment?*
- *How do we tend to look at people, and what is different about how the Lord looks at people, per 1 Samuel 16:7?*

September 20

Genesis 6:1-22

Sketch #1: Noah and *Coram Deo*

Memory work: Psalm 139:4-6

Study questions:

- *Review and describe the circumstances in which Noah found grace.*
- *How does this chapter affirm the truths we learned last week regarding God's assessment of humanity?*
- *What made Noah unique? Based on your answer, does this chapter seem to align with Romans 11:6? How so?*

September 27

Numbers 6:22-27

The Aaronic Blessing and *Coram Deo*

Memory work: Psalm 139:4-6

Study questions:

- *What are the requests contained in this national Aaronic blessing?*
- *Is there any meaning to be drawn from the pairings in verses 25 and 26 (face shining -> grace; countenance -> peace)? If so, what are they?*
- *Can and should we use the Aaronic blessing to "invoke God's name upon" one another in this church age? Be prepared to defend your answer!*

October 4

Psalm 33:13-22

God's Watchful Eye on Those Who Fear Him

Memory work: Psalm 139:7-10

Study questions:

- *Other than God's looking down upon us, what are some major themes or concepts that appear in both the first (13-17) and second (18-22) halves of this chapter?*
- *To what end, or for what purpose, does God watch over those who fear Him?*
- *What are some heart responses of the Psalmist as he considers God's watchful eye?*

October 11 **Genesis 16, Proverbs 15:13** **Sketch #2: Hagar and Coram Deo**

Memory work: Psalm 139:7-10

Study questions:

- *Review and describe the circumstances in which Hagar learned about Coram Deo.*
- *What does Proverbs 15:13 add to our understanding of Hagar's experience?*
- *How do the lessons learned by Hagar apply to your own life?*

October 18 **Psalms 139:1-12** **The Inescapable Candle of Coram Deo**

Memory work: Psalm 139:11-14

Study questions:

- *What verbs (actions) are attributed to the LORD in this section?*
- *What are some things that, according to this passage, are impossible?*
- *What do you find most comforting or encouraging about this section of Scripture?*

October 25 **Psalms 139:13-18** **The Inception of Coram Deo**

Memory work: Psalm 139:11-14

Study questions:

- *What verbs (actions) are attributed to the Lord in this section?*
- *What truth in this passage do you find most awe-inspiring or amazing?*
- *How should this passage affect our perspective on the sanctity of human life from conception?*

November 1 **Psalms 119:132-135; Ps 32:8** **Coram Deo and Directed Steps**

Memory work: Psalm 139:11-14

Study questions:

- *What requests does the Psalmist make in this section of Psalm 139?*
- *The text implies a connection between God's "look" (v 132a) or shining face (v135a), and our knowing the right thing to do (v133, 134, 135b). Explore this connection. Can you explain it?*
- *What is the promise of Psalm 32:8?*
- *Can you recall times when God gave you light, directed your steps, or taught you His statutes through the Word? Share one!*

November 8 **2 Chronicles 16** **Sketch #3: King Asa and Coram Deo**

Memory work: Psalm 139:15-18

Study questions:

- *Review and describe the circumstances in which Asa learned about Coram Deo.*
- *What does it mean to have a heart "loyal" to the Lord?*
- *How does the Lord interact with such a heart?*
- *How might the lessons in this chapter apply to your own life?*

November 15

Hebrews 4:11-16

The Sword of *Coram Deo*

Memory work: Psalm 139:15-18

Study questions:

- *What, according to the larger context of this passage, is the danger against which the Word of God guards us?*
- *Does the piercing nature of the Word of God bring you comfort or concern?*
- *How does the compassionate help discussed in vs 14-16 further inform our understanding of the piercing discernment of vs 11-13?*

November 22

No study – Thanksgiving break

November 29

2 Corinthians 4

Sketch #4: The Apostle Paul and *Coram Deo*

Memory work: Review. If desired, add Psalm 139:23-24 or even the whole rest of the chapter!

Study questions:

- *What impossibility does the Gospel ministry encounter, and how is it overcome (v1-6)?*
- *What treasure did Paul possess, and how did it sustain his gospel outreach (v7-15)?*
- *What should we be looking at while we serve Christ as earthly ambassadors (v16-18)?*
- *Share something that has impressed you in a new or especially useful way from this quarter's study of *Coram Deo*.*