

CORAM DEO

Bible Study

These studies have been written by Rev. William Cwirla and Rev. Brent Kuhlman, plenary teachers for Coram Deo, to help pastors and other adult leaders prepare youth to attend the 2011 Higher Things conferences.

July 5-8, 2011

Las Vegas, Nevada
University of Nevada

July 12-15, 2011

Bloomington/Normal, Illinois
Illinois State University

July 19-22, 2011

Atlanta, Georgia
Emory University

For more information, visit
www.coramdeo2011.org

INTRODUCTION

First things first. Coram Deo? What exactly does “Coram Deo” mean? Well, it’s Latin for “before God,” as in His presence, under His reign, etc. Think a bit about living Coram Deo, before God. What does it mean that you live Coram Deo? Is this good news or bad news? Consider the question posed in Job (4:17): “Can mortal man be righteous before God? Can a man be pure before his Maker?” How would you answer that question?

Can anyone be justified before God by his or her works? Why not? How then do we stand before God? Read Galatians 3:11.

Adam

CORAM DEO

. . . then the
Lord God
formed
the man
of dust from
the ground
and breathed
into his nostrils
the breath
of life, and the
man became
a living
creature.

- Genesis 2:7

1. Read Genesis 1:26-31. In whose image were Adam and Eve made? What did this mean for their life before God?
2. Read Genesis 2:4-25. How was Adam's life before God as priesthood? What sort of sacrifices did Adam offer to God?
3. Read Genesis 3:1-24. How did Sin change Adam's life before God? Before his wife? In what ways did Adam's priesthood change on account of his disobedience? What are some signs of God's grace in Christ?
4. Read Romans 5:12-21. In what sense is Adam's fall the fall of all of humanity? What entered into the world as a result of Adam's disobedience? What came into the world as a result of Jesus' obedience? What does it mean that Adam was a "type of the one who was to come"?
5. Read Romans 8:18-25. What was the effect of Adam's sin on the whole created order? When will the damage be undone? What is our stance before God as we await the redemption of our bodies?

Abraham CORAM DEO

Go from your
country and
your kindred
and your
father's house
to the land
that I will
show you.
And I will
make of you a
great nation,
and I will bless
you and make
your name
great,
so that you
will be
a blessing.

- Genesis 12:1

1. Read Genesis 12:1-9. What does God tell Abraham to do? What are the promises God makes to Abraham? What does Abraham do?
2. Read Genesis 15. What does God promise Abraham? What sign of comfort and certainty does God give Abraham in order to show that God will do and give what He promises? Does Abraham trust God's word of promise? What does it mean that God "credited it [Abraham's faith] as righteousness? See Romans 4:18-25.
3. Read Genesis 17:1-22 and Genesis 18:1-15. Again, God gives a promise to Abraham in 17:1-14. How does Abraham react to the promise of a son through Sarah in 17:5-17? What is Sarah's reaction to the promise? Why does God's promise seem so ridiculous?
4. Read Genesis 21:1-7. "Everything depends on God's word of promise!" How do the circumstances of Isaac's birth show this? Why was it so important later on for the nation of Israel to know this truth about her beginnings?
5. How is Jesus' life before God also our life before God? Read Romans 6:4-5. How are we incorporated into the death, life, and glory of Christ? Read Colossians 3:1-3. Where is our life before God now?
6. Read Romans 4. How is Abraham our "father"? Does God work the same way with us as He did with Abraham? If so, how?

Jesus

CORAM DEO

... here
in Baptism
there is
brought free
to every man's
door
just such
a priceless
medicine
which
swallows up
death
and saves
the lives of
all men.

- The Large Catechism

1. Read Romans 5:12-21. How is Jesus the “second Adam?” Would you say that Jesus is the new Head of humanity or that Jesus is the Head of a new humanity? Explain your thinking. 1 Corinthians 15:22 states, “For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.” What does this tell you about Christ’s victory over death?
2. Read Hebrews 2:10-17. Why was it essential to humanity’s salvation that the Son of God become Man? What was Jesus’ priesthood before God and how did He fulfill it? Why is it important that Jesus Himself suffered and was tempted? See Hebrews 4:14-16. What does Jesus’ high priesthood mean for us, His baptized priests?
3. Read Matthew 5:17-20. What did Jesus come to do with the Law and the Prophets? In what way(s) did Jesus fulfill the Law actively? In what way(s) did Jesus fulfill the law passively? Why are both Jesus’ active and passive obedience before God essential to our salvation? See Matthew 5:20, 48. What are the standards of the law? Do you meet those standards? How then can a sinner stand before God?
4. Read Philippians 2:5-11. This “Christ Hymn” deals with three verbs: Jesus’ emptying Himself, humbling Himself, and His being exalted. What did the Son do in His emptying Himself of His divine honor and glory? What did He do in His humbling? What did He do in His exaltation? Do you think Jesus “descent into hell” was part of His humbling or His exaltation? Explain.
5. How is Jesus’ life before God also our life before God? Read Romans 6:4-5. How are we incorporated into the death, life, and glory of Christ? Read Colossians 3:1-3. Where is our life before God now?

YOU

CORAM DEO

... the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

- The Small Catechism

1. What do you deserve from God because of the sinful nature inherited from Adam, and your own sin? Read Romans 4:15; 6:21, 23a; 5:12, 16, 18; Galatians 3:13.
2. How do you know of you your sin, your sinful condition, and His condemnation of you? See Exodus 20:3-17. What is the role of God's Law in your life? See 1 Samuel 2:6; 2 Corinthians 3:6; Galatians 3:24.
3. What is the Gospel? Why is it good news for YOU? Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. Also Romans 1:16; 2 Corinthians 3:6; and 1 Corinthians 1:2.
4. What is Absolution? See Luke 24:47; John 20:19-23.
5. What are the gifts given in the Lord's Supper? See 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 and Matthew 26:26-28.
6. Why are God's gifts for you in Word and Sacrament important Coram Deo?
7. What does it mean for a Christian to follow Jesus? Read Matthew 16:24-25.
8. What is the meaning of Baptism for your daily life? See Romans 6:4, 11; 2 Corinthians 3:6; Luke 24:46-47; Ephesians 4:22-24.