

## SEEKING THE FACE OF GOD

### INTRO

#### *For love of beauty*

- Dominant themes of culture
- The appreciation of and the quest for beauty
- Learning from The Learning Channel (TLC)
  - Trading Spaces
  - What Not To Wear
  - Surgical makeovers?!

### CORAM DEO & THE PSALMS

- Before the face of God
  - The Reformers' nutshell version of biblical Christianity
- Does coram Deo fit the language of the Psalms?

#### *Psalm 1*

- Opening benediction and a defining theme in the Psalms
  - Seeking the Lord brings blessing.
  - Forsaking Him brings judgment.

~The largest book in the Bible is the manuscript of a God-seeker.~

#### *The sound of seeking (Psalm 71)*

- He expresses his need,
- Asks for God's help.
- Voices his confidence and trust in God.
- Recounts the faithfulness of God.
- Proclaims Who God is & Who God has been.
- Rejoices in God and worships with song!

## THE SEEKER-BREEDING PROMISES OF GOD

- Watch out for lurking bootstrap-theology.
- For David, seeking was not primarily about personal discipline and self-denial.
- It was about taking in the 'beauty of the Lord' (Ps 27:4)

### ***Ps 63:1-5***

"It is crucial that we not be more fascinated, more gripped, by the prayers of a man than by the pleasures of God. How easy it is to be more thrilled by radical devotion than by divine beauty." –John Piper, The Pleasures of God, p. 207

*"Thou shalt find him if thou seek him."* I wish I could sing, and could extemporize a bit of music, for then I would stand here and sing those words: "Thou shalt find him if thou seek him." At any rate, the words have sweet melody in them to my ear and heart — "Thou shalt find him if thou seek him." I should like to whisper that sentence softly to the sick, and to shout it to the busy. It ought to linger long in your memories, and abide in your hearts — "Thou shalt find him if thou seek him." What more do you want?" – Charles Spurgeon

Heb 11:6 "And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him."

"It is plain that one of the blessings which we as a church should seek with all our hearts is that of continual increase. The entire church of God should look for the daily multiplication of the spiritual seed." – Charles Spurgeon

"Whoever hath an interest in any one promise hath an interest in them all, and in the fountain-love from whence they flow. He to whom any drop of their sweetness floweth may follow it up into the spring. Were we wise, each taste of mercy would lead us to the ocean of love. Have we any hold on a promise? We may get upon it, and it will bring us to the main, Christ Himself and the Spirit, and so into the bosom of the Father. It is our folly to abide upon a little, which is given us merely to make us press for more." -John Owen

"O Lord our God, grant us grace to desire Thee with our whole heart; that, so desiring, we may seek, and seeking find Thee; and so finding Thee may love Thee; and loving Thee, may hate those sins from which Thou hast redeemed us." -Anselm

## THE UPWARD SPIRAL OF SEEKING AND FINDING

- Grace always comes first.
- But, we are not completely passive. We are called to respond to God's grace.
- Through His promises and prior revelation, God draws us to seek Him.

"Clear shining from God must be at the bottom of deep laboring with God. What is the reason that so many in our days set their hands to the plough, and looked back again? -- begin to serve Providence in great things, but cannot finish? -- give over in the heat of the day? They never had any such revelation of the mind of God upon their spirits, such a discovery of His excellence, as might serve for a bottom of such undertakings." -John Owen

"I want this morning to find out seekers, and by the help of God's Holy Spirit to encourage them, to direct them, so that if possible this may be the last morning in which they shall be called seekers, and the first day in which they shall be finders, and know how sweet Christ is to those who find him." – Charles Spurgeon

- Those who continually seek, continually find.

## A WORD ON 'METHODS'

***Methods can never replace revelation.***

- How To's are not what we need the MOST.
- Trust in methods → frustration and failure

➤ ***Two ways to get you to my favorite restaurant and why the 2<sup>nd</sup> is better***

## The 'Real World' Relevance of Seeking God

- Affects issues ranging the spectrum of human experience...
- Rejection, Boredom, Unforgiveness, Loss, Despair, Worldliness, Unbelief, Controlling Habits, Anger, Insecurity
- All of these constantly and progressively will be changing as we seek God's face and behold Him by faith.

1 Chron 16:10-11