

SESSION 02

Introductory Topics

Part 1

Instructor



Dr. Gene Haas grew up in Canada in a religious home but did not know the grace of salvation in Christ, after university, travelling in Europe for 8 months, Gene was converted to Christ at the age of twenty-two in the mountains of Switzerland. After returning to Canada, God led him to attend Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, USA, where he earned the M.Div. and Th. M. degrees.

Returning to Canada, he was involved in a church plant, and taught at a Bible college for 4 years. During this time, he was ordained as a minister in the Presbyterian Church in America. He moved to Toronto where he completed a doctorate in theology at the Toronto School of Theology, University of Toronto. After that, he was a Church Planting pastor for 5 years. He then accepted a position as Professor of Religion and Theology at Redeemer University, Ontario, Canada, where he taught for 28 years. He has been married for 39 years, and has two sons, and grandchildren.

Since his retirement from teaching at Redeemer University, he has been busy with research and writing, as well as frequent preaching at a variety of churches. He is also Chairman of the committee of the Eastern Canada Presbytery which guides and examines all candidates for the pastoral ministry. He has a deep passion for instructing candidates in the Bible and in theology, and for relating the Christian faith to contemporary issues of North American culture, especially in the area of ethics.

Goals

In this course we aim to make theology accessible to you. You will discover what relevance has theology to you in your personal walk with Jesus and in your ministry regardless of whether it is public or private.

In this session we will ask ourselves whether theology is relevant for every Christian.

Sessions Overview

1. Introduction: What is theology?
2. **Introductory topics – part 1**
3. Introductory topics – part 2
4. Worldviews: the revelation, and our knowledge about God
5. The doctrine of Holy Scripture – part 1
6. The doctrine of Holy Scripture – part 2
7. Inspiration of Scripture
8. The scope, authority, and clarity of the Bible

- 9. The canon and the text of the Bible
- 10. Principals of biblical interpretation

Session Summary

Do *you* need theology? In this session we will look at some of the basic components of theology.

Fill in the Blancs

- 1. Name some common objections, mentioned by Dr. Gene Haas, raised by people to the practice of theology.

- 2. Theology explains and clarifies the _____.
- 3. Theology helps us distinguish _____ from _____ beliefs.
- 4. Describe a few ways in which false heresies find their way into the church.

- 5. Systematic theology takes the revelation of the Bible and puts it in a...

- 6. Right or wrong: Contextualizing theology means translating the revelation of the Bible into relevant application of a specific context.