

# SESSION 08

## *The scope, authority and clarity of the Bible*

16 כִּי כָל־הַכְּתוּב נִכְתָּב בְּרוּחַ אֱלֹהִים גַּם־מוֹעִיל לְהוֹרֹת  
17 וְלְהוֹכִיחַ וְלִישָׁר וְלִישָׁר בְּצַדִּיקָה: לְמַעַן אֲשֶׁר־יִהְיֶה אִישׁ  
הָאֱלֹהִים תָּמִים וּמְהִיר לְכָל־מַעֲשֵׂה טוֹב:  
ד לָכֵן אֲנִי מַעֲיֵד בְּךָ נְגַד הָאֱלֹהִים וְנְגַד אֲדֹנָיִי יֵשׁוּעַ  
הַמְּשִׁיחַ הַבָּא לְשַׁפֵּט אֶת־הַחַיִּים וְאֶת־הַמֵּתִים בְּהוֹפְעָתוֹ  
2 וּבְמַלְכוּתוֹ: הִכָּרְזוּ אֶת־הַדְּבָר וְהִתְמַדּוּ בֵּין בְּעַתּוֹ בֵּין  
שָׁלָא בְּעַתּוֹ הוֹכַח וְנִצֵּר וְהוֹדָהּ בְּכָל־אַרְבָּעוֹת וְהוֹרָאָה:  
3 כִּי־בּוֹא תָבֹא הָעֵת אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יָכִילוּ אֶת־הַלֵּקָח הַכָּרִיא  
4 כִּי אִם־יָבֹאוּת נַפְשָׁם יִקְבְּצוּ קָהָם מוֹרִים לְשַׁעֲשְׂעֵי אֲזַנָּיִם:  
5 וַיִּטּוּ אֲזַנָּיִהֶם מִן־הָאֱמֶת וַיִּפְּנוּ אֶל־הַהֲגָדוֹת: אֲכַל אַתָּה  
הִיָּה עַר בְּכָל סֶבֶל הַרְעוֹת וְעֲשֵׂה מִלֵּאכֶת הַמִּבְשָׁר

## 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.

Through this session you will learn what is the purpose of the bible and its main message.

## 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

Some of the question this sessions delas with are: Why was Scripture given to us? Does the Bible have the last word in answering questions that are important to us today? What about subject that don't appear explicitly in the Bible such as nuclear energy, gene technology or birth control? Who is allowed to read and interpret the Bible?

### Fill in the Blancs

1. What is the main message of the Bible? Answer the question, and then try to summarize your answer in one short sentence.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Summary:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. The main scope of the Bible is revealing \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. "The inspiration of Scripture causes the word of God to come about through human authors, but the *illumination* of the Holy Spirit causes people to \_\_\_\_\_ the Bible as the \_\_\_\_\_."
4. "A faithful church should always be praying to God that it maintains faithful to what \_\_\_\_\_ ... and how to deal with new issues that arise that may not specifically be mentioned in Scripture."
5. "The Church is not inspired, it is \_\_\_\_\_ by the Bible. It looks to the \_\_\_\_\_ to give it guidance."
6. Why do catechisms should never have more authority than the Bible?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 
- 
7. What is the average intelligence score needed to become a scholar (a scholar is a theologian who reads and understands the main message of the Bible, and is able to research it deeper)? \_\_\_\_\_