

SESSION 10

Principles of Biblical Interpretation

16 כִּי כָּל־הַכָּתוּב נִכְתָּב בְּרוּחַ אֱלֹהִים גַּם־מוֹעִיל לְהוֹרֹת
17 וּלְהוֹכִיחַ וּלְיִשָּׁר וּלְיִסֹּר בַּצְּדָקָה: לְמַעַן אֲשֶׁר־יִהְיֶה אִישׁ
הָאֱלֹהִים תָּמִים וּמְהִיר לְכָל־מַעֲשֵׂה טוֹב:
ד לָכֵן אֲנִי מַעֲיֵד בְּךָ נְגַד הָאֱלֹהִים וְנְגַד אֲדֹנָי יֵשׁוּעַ
הַמְּשִׁיחַ הַבָּא לְשַׁפֵּט אֶת־הַחַיִּים וְאֶת־הַמֵּתִים בְּהוֹפְעָתוֹ
2 וּבְמַלְכוּתוֹ: הִכַּרְתָּ אֶת־הַדְּבָר וְהִתְמַד בֵּין בְּעֵתוֹ בֵּין
שָׁלָא בְּעֵתוֹ הוֹכַח וְנִצֵּר וְהוֹדִיר בְּכָל־אַרְבָּעוֹת וְהוֹרָאָה:
3 כִּי־בּוֹא תָבֹא הָעֵת אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יָכִילוּ אֶת־הַלֶּקַח הַכָּרִיא
4 כִּי אִם־יָבֹאוּת נַפְשָׁם יִקְבְּצוּ קָהָם מוֹרִים לְשַׁעֲשְׂעֵי אֲזָנָיִם:
5 וַיִּטּוּ אֲזָנֵיהֶם מִן־הָאֱמֶת וַיִּפְּנוּ אֶל־הַהֲגָדוֹת: אֲכַל אַתָּה
הָיָה עַר בְּכָל סֶבֶל הַרְעוֹת וַעֲשֵׂה מֵלֹאכֶת 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.

In this session you will learn the basics of interpreting biblical texts.

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

How to make the text of the Bible understandable to any audience. If you're planning to study the Bible for yourself, teach it to your family or home groups, or even preach in a larger setting, like a congregation of believers, you will need to know how to make the message of the Bible clear to anyone. In this session you will get a look at some of the tools used by scholars to that end, that you could use yourself as well.

Fill in the Blanks

1. The first principle of hermeneutics and the interpretation of the Bible is the centrality of _____.
2. Hebrews 10:1 says that the sacrificed for atonement of sin are only the _____ of the good things that are coming, not the _____ reality themselves.
3. The second principal of interpretation is to look at any passage in its _____

4. Understanding the literature setting in which the text you're looking at was written, helps us understand that some texts are, for example, a figure of speech. Can you think of an example out of your own culture of an expression you think might be misunderstood in another culture? How would you explain (exegesis) it in other words?

5. "The meaning of the text is found in the _____."
6. "Scripture is its own _____."
7. "Interpret less clear texts by those which are _____."