

SESSION 15

The Decrees of God

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

This 4-session course focuses on the Decrees of God and how He uses these to bring greater glory to Himself. The professor approaches this material by looking at Creation, Creation & Science, and how they are linked in Gods Providence for the world.

Sessions Overview

This course is a follow up of Bible and Theology 2. The session numbers are in continuity to it.

- 15. The Decrees of God**
- 16. Creation
- 17. Creation & Science
- 18. Providence

Session Summary

In this session we look at what is a decree of God? Does God know before who is going to be saved and who not? Can He influence that or is it in our hand only? At last, we will see if there is any assurance of salvation. These are some of the most difficult questions we ever face. Take some extra time to meditate, research, pray and talk with others about it.

Fill in the Blanks

1. The decrees of God are God's _____
_____ whatever happens.
2. The three characteristics of God's decrees are:
 - _____
 - _____

- _____
3. Josef’s life was full of suffering. How does this settle with God’s goodness, and did Josef understand that?

 4. God can decree acts while maintaining _____ responsibility.
 5. What are the major three decrees of God? _____,
_____, and _____
 6. The decree of elections claims that God decided before time who is going to be saved. According to M. Horton’s definition of that doctrine, what was it that saved people did that earned them (made them deserve) salvation? Explain!

 7. “Faith is the human means [for salvation], God’s _____ is the ultimate cause.
 8. What does God have to do that keeps people from being saved?

 9. Which one is correct: God foreknows because He predestines. / God predestines because He foreknows.
 10. How can you know if you are saved or not?
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____