



BBC UPDATE

VOLUME 16 NUMBER 6

MARCH 15, 2025



Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

THE RELENTLESS ATTACK UPON THE BIBLE

In former seminary days I often wondered if the Satanic attack in the form of “*Yea, hath God said*” (Gen. 3:1) had ceased, since seminary institutions and professors often pushed for the modern versions such as the *New American Standard Version* and more recently the *English Standard Version*. No definitive answer came but great assurance was the response that textual scholars were approaching the original text of Scripture as represented in the modern versions! I wondered further, since I was living in the 20th Century, when the discovery of the true and authoritative words of the Precious Saviour would finally become available so I would not live by bread alone, “but by **every word** that comes from the mouth of God,” as promised even in the *ESV*!

No, the satanic attack continues and the “Bible scholars” of the world are deceived, promoting the Gnostic-laced Critical Text of the Greek New Testament by unbelieving rationalists, and utilizing the “help” of extra-biblical sources and the non-authoritative *LXX* to correct the Hebrew Text of the Old Testament! The foundational doctrine of biblical Christianity is the doctrine of Bibliology, from which source we derive Theology Proper, Soteriology, Ecclesiology, and Eschatology. If Satan and his theological dupes can question, change, and diminish the text of Scripture, then Christianity becomes weaker and weaker in doctrine and practice to the damnation of many pseudo Christians, pastors, and churches!

The **Bible Baptist Theological Seminary Spring 2025 Lecture Series** will deal with the Perfect Preservation of the Inspired Words of God. The following **Book Review** by the biblical scholar of Scripture, Dr. Joel Grassi, brings encouragement and knowledge to the Lord’s biblical pastors, church members, and churches.

BOOK REVIEW



Dr. Joel Grassi

Why I Preach from the Received Text. Edited by Jeffrey T. Riddle & Christian M. McShaffrey. Winter Springs, FL: The Greater Heritage Christian Publishing, 2022. 276 pp. Softcover \$24.09; Kindle \$12.99.

The Received Text Mindset has had proponents throughout all ages of history, and a recently published compendium of essays by Reformed ministers serves as a good present day example of this historic position. Twenty-five individual pastors and church leaders contribute chapters ranging from 6 to 12 pages, giving their personal testimonies as to why they came to embrace and settle upon a Received Text position, over and against an eclectic or critical text position, for the preaching of the New Testament (NT). These writers would identify as Reformed Baptists and Presbyterians, having a Protestant approach to matters of ecclesiology.

The editorial introduction informs that the writers are at various stages of ministerial service, and serve in locations from the USA and Canada to the UK and Australia. For those who do not identify as Reformed or who only hold to whichever points of Calvinism are biblical, the book contains practically nil of the espousing of soteriological positions associated with John Calvin. And for those who do not fit neatly within popular expressions of Covenant Theology (or Dispensationalism for that matter), there is nothing of note that the reader will find overly distracting or objectionable.

The volume proves to be an excellent compendium for tracing the thinking of the forebears of Protestantism in defense of the TR position. Men such as Owen, Turretin, Muller, Hills and others are cited profitably throughout the work. Owen's assertion that text critics who treat the Bible as any other book are in fact bordering on atheism (83) needs a fresh hearing in these days of androcentric bibliology. The book nearly equally provides a wealth of quotations from proponents of the Critical Text (CT) position, wherein their lack of faith and commitment to pragmatism is on clear display.

Men such as B.F. Westcott, F.J.A. Hort, Bruce Metzger, Kurt Aland, Daniel Wallace, Bart Erhman, and James White are cited throughout, so that the reader may learn firsthand the rationalistic approach that these men take in regards to God's Word. For instance, Kurt Aland's lengthy quote questioning the very existence of Jesus Christ is cited (p. 248), along with several quotes from Erhman (p. 65) and Wallace (p. 112) who both have declared harmoniously that there is no way to tell if we have what the Apostles originally wrote or not. In the introduction, the editors do an excellent job showing that the topic at hand reaches back to the garden of Eden and to the original couple, and that the three main issues with the CT, namely modification & addition & deletion, are as old as man himself. That is why those who expect this issue of the text of the Bible and the doctrine of preservation to "go away" magically are not thinking biblically.

This anthology also serves as a showcase of theology (specifically bibliology) in action, providing several real life "case studies." Against the tendency to see "the text issue" as something that belongs to some academy outside of the local church, the reality

Continued on next page

BOOK REVIEW

Continued from Page 2

is that the NT congregation is the only organization that has biblical authority to comment on the matter, and these twenty-five pastors' testimonies serve to illustrate exactly how much the subject of the text affects both ministers and church members alike. In fact, this reviewer has observed CT proponents speak out of both sides of their mouth, first by assuring their audience that the differences between Greek Texts are not that big of a deal, and then by trying to convince them that the CT readings are so much better than the traditional text that they surely should make the switch.

This compendium also provides a great opportunity to see the writings of men who serve with the Trinitarian Bible Society from which many of the Lord's churches access their physical copies of the Received Text (Ginsberg / Scrivener). In fact, a highlight of the book is John Thackway's interaction with Hendricksen and Lloyd-Jones on Ephesians 5 (ch. 22).

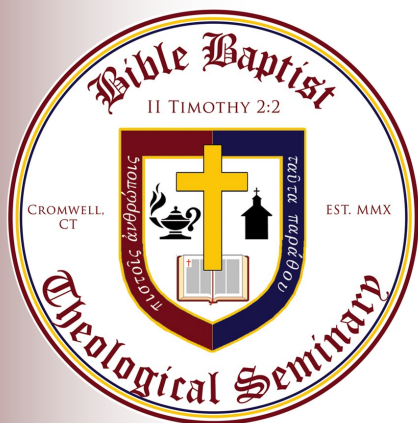
The famous London Baptist Confession of Faith (1:8) quote appears numerous times throughout the work: "The Old Testament in Hebrew (which was the native language of the people of God of old), and the New Testament in Greek (which at the time of the writing of it was most generally known to the nations), being immediately inspired by God, and by his singular care and providence kept pure in all ages..." It is good for those who identify as Baptist and TR to evaluate the words of this confession. The alternative to "kept pure in all ages" is "was corrupted in ages past and halts in an unrestored state as of yet."

The writers distance themselves from the KJVO-ism of the Ruckman / Riplinger variety. The editors state outright, "We did not ask our authors to address, "Why I Preach from the King James Version," but "Why I Preach from the Received Text." The primary purpose of this book is a defense of the traditional original Hebrew and Greek text of the Bible" (p. 17). The book maintains a Christ-like tone while asking some hard questions of those who would promote either uncertainty or extremism. The Select Annotated Bibliography at the end is a treasure trove of good materials on the topic of the text of the Bible, and will be a valuable resource for those who desire to build up their libraries in the area of bibliology. There is also an appendix that provides helpful approaches for churches that are seeking to return to traditional translations from the modern versions.

Ideally, this work should be in the personal library of those who study the text and who would like to represent those who hold a classic, received text position. It should also be in the personal library of those who hold to a Majority Text or CT viewpoint, so that the TR position can be more accurately represented, and so that slanders (intentional or unintentional) of labeling these pastors "KJVO" can be avoided. Finally, the work belongs in college and seminary libraries as a helpful reference work on the text issue and practical theology. This volume begs for a sequel, and we look forward to a companion piece of additional ministers who preach from the Received Text.



BBTS SPRING LECTURE SERIES



The BBTS Spring 2025 Lecture Series will be held on April 11th, 9AM to 3PM at Galilean Baptist Church. The topic will be “the Necessity of Biblical Exegesis for Sound Doctrine,” with Dr. Thomas M. Strouse and Dr. M. Ryan Strouse exegeting Psalm Twelve and Ecclesiastes (respectively) to give the biblical teaching of the preservation of the perfect words of God. In order to plan for food and seating, we will need an indication of the names of those planning on attending.

Please email ASAP to drtms_bbts@juno.com.

A Luncheon will be provided along with the book table with new and pertinent works. Please consider these opportunities to buy books (some may go out of print not to be reprinted), fellowship with sister church members, and be challenged by the speakers (some of whom may not always be available)!

KIRSTEN GAGNON'S CANCER UPDATE

4

Kirsten had her regular two month CT scan on February 26th. Although the scan showed some shrinkage of the pancreatic tumor, it also showed an additional lesion on the liver and the other two lesions grew (just a tiny bit). The oncologist believes that the shrinkage is due to the residual effects from the radiation and not from her current treatment. After speaking with him at length, and much discussion with the family, Bill and Kirsten have decided to stop her chemotherapy treatment, as per the doctor's recommendation. He does not feel that the treatment has extended the timeline any more than he had originally indicated as they had hoped it would. He also reached out to Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center to see if there were any trials, experimental drugs, or other treatments for her—he didn't find any. Because she generally experiences fewer good days than bad ones in between treatments, they are now opting for “quality of life” for the remaining time left. As she gets further from her last treatment, which was on February 24th, she already has started to feel better, have more energy, thus making it possible for her enjoy all the things they wants to do. Of course, we are still praying that the Lord will completely heal her. We trust him, that whatever His will is, will be done.



*“Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned,
in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.”*

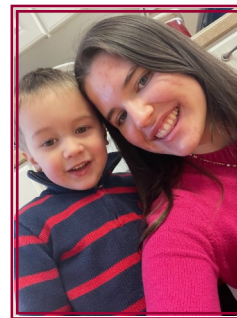
Philippians 4:11



Ryan gets some time off during a recent Wednesday service by having new church member Nathaniel babysit Claire.



Landon has started helping with the streaming ministry along with Aiko and Nathaniel.



Sabrina and Bryce have some fun in the nursery.

BBC/BBTS 2025 SCHEDULE

April 11

BBTS Spring Lecture Series

Galilean Baptist Church

Stafford Springs, CT

*The Necessity of Biblical Exegesis for
Sound Doctrine*

May 17-18

BBTS Banquet and Graduation

Bible Baptist Church

Cromwell, CT

May 26-30

Ireland Module

Greek IV &

Psalms 42-72

June 2-6

Community Baptist Church

Coopersburg, PA

Minor Prophets I

July 21-25

Calvary Independent Baptist Church

Plymouth, NH

Psalms 1-41

September 22-26

Bible Baptist Church

Nashua, NH

Minor Prophets II

October 19-22

Timeless Truths Bible Conference

Willow Grove Baptist Church

Waynesburg, PA

TBA

November 7, 2025

BBTS Fall Lecture Series

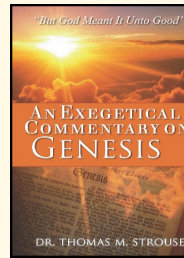
Galilean Baptist Church

Stafford Springs, CT

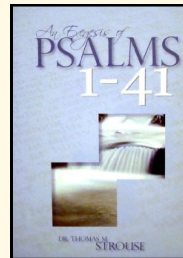
TBA

The Publication Page

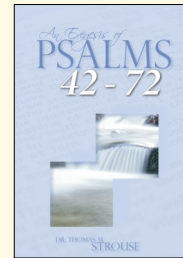
The books on this page may be purchased by contacting:
Bible Baptist Church
860-229-5387
drtms_bbts@juno.com



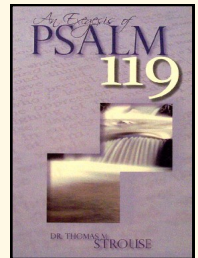
Genesis
\$20.00



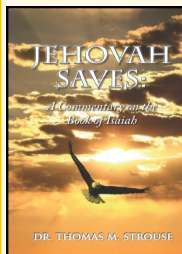
Psalms 1-41
\$20.00



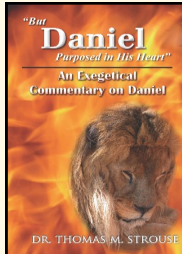
Psalms 42-72
\$25.00



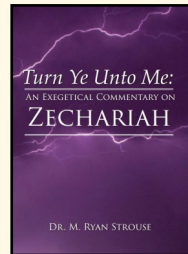
Psalm 119
\$20.00



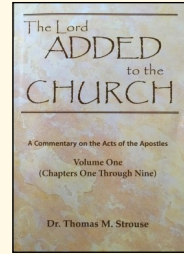
Isaiah
\$20.00



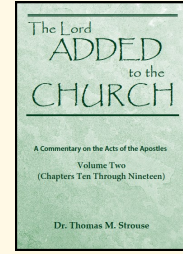
Daniel
\$20.00



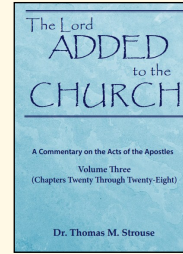
Zechariah
\$30.00



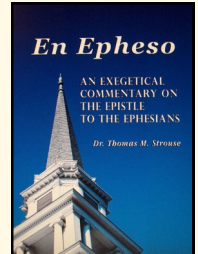
Acts 1-9
\$30.00



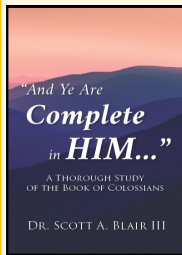
Acts 10-19
\$30.00



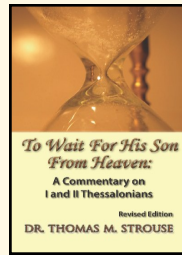
Acts 20-28
\$30.00



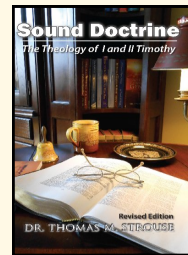
Ephesians
\$20.00



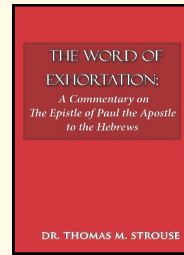
Colossians
\$20.00



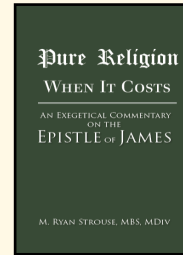
Thessalonians
\$20.00



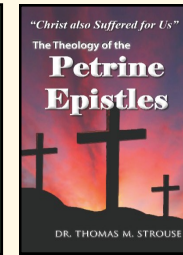
1 & 2 Timothy
\$20.00



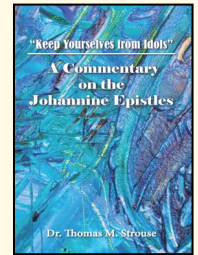
Hebrews
\$30.00



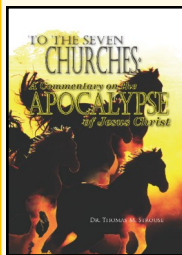
James
\$30.00



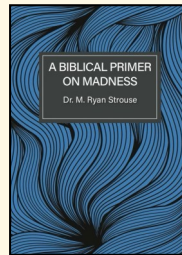
1 & 2 Peter
\$20.00



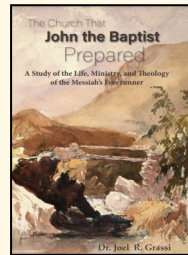
Johannine Epistles
\$30.00



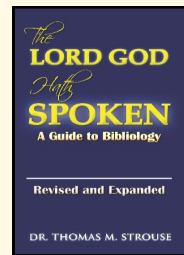
Revelation
\$30.00



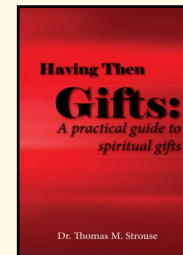
Biblical Madness
\$20.00



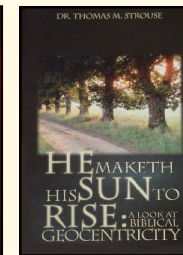
John the Baptist
\$35.00



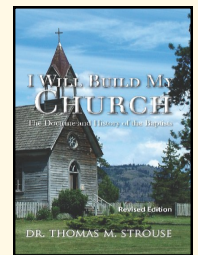
Bibliology
\$15.00



Spiritual Gifts
\$8.00

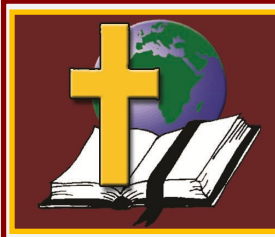
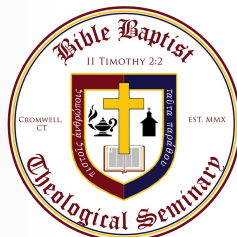


Geocentricity
\$10.00



Baptist Doctrine & History
\$15.00

If you have any news for the next issue of the BBC Update, please send an email to:
drtms_bbts@juno.com



Bible Baptist Theological Seminary
A Ministry of Bible Baptist Church
40 Country Squire Drive
Cromwell, CT 06416
860-613-2096
www.bbc-cromwell.org