



BBC UPDATE

BIBLE BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY BEGINS!



Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

On Thursday, January 28, 2021, Bible Baptist Theological Seminary began its twelfth year with the Spring Semester. The course offering is the Gospel of Mark with Dr. Thomas Strouse, Dean of Bible Baptist Theological Seminary. The class was well attended with the following seminarians, including Mr. Darrell Nelson, Mr. Frank Cammarata, Pastor Dan Herr, Mr. Bill Gagnon, Professor Jeff Skorupski, Pastor David Short, and Dr. Bob Hovey. We are thankful for these men who have a desire to grow in the word of God and minister the truth to others.

“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.” (II Tim. 2:2).



The Gospel of Mark class

THE ZEAL OF THINE HOUSE HATH EATEN ME UP



M. Ryan Strouse

“For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me.” Psalm 69:9

The Lord Jesus Christ went up to Jerusalem during the Jews’ Passover and saw the irreverent and lax attitude the Jewish people had towards the House of God, which was to be a place of sacred reverence and adoration for them to meet with their Holy Creator; hence, the Lord, *“Made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple...poured out the changers’ money, and overthrew the tables”* (Jn.2:12-15). Christ would declare to the vendors, *“Take these things hence; make not my Father’s house an house of merchandise”*; meanwhile, the on-looking disciples *“Remembered that it was written, the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up”* (Jn. 2:16-17). The obedient, suffering Servant was consumed with doing the will of His Father; as He indicated in Luke 2:49, *“Wist ye not that I must be about my Father’s business?”* The Son’s indignant zeal consumed Him when he found the earthly location of His Father filled with haggling vendors instead of humble praise; in essence, the obedient Servant was angered that the knowledgeable, albeit mostly unbelieving Jews were not upholding the temple in the manner that the Father intended (I Kgs. 8). This account highlights the righteous anger of the Messiah when His people were not zealous for the things He was zealous for, specifically, the earthly location for assembling and worship. The Savior’s expectation was that the Jews would match His own zeal for the House of the LORD; the dimly distant gap in zeal for the LORD’s house infuriated the Savior. Do we match our Savior’s fervent energy for the house of God in all its facets?

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The zeal of the Lord Jesus Christ during His earthly ministry was zeroed in on doing the will of His Father, which was linked to the old and new place of worship. Our Savior was on a mission that Satan himself tried to thwart at every turn; despite constant rejection, the suffering Servant forged ahead to obey His Father (Is.50:7, Lk.9:51). David pre-figured and prophesied the Messiah in Psalm 69:4, 8-9, *“They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of mine head: they that would destroy me, being mine enemies wrongfully, are mighty: Because for thy sake I have borne reproach; shame hath covered my face. I am become a stranger unto my brethren, and an alien unto my mother’s children. For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up”*. The Savior performed favorable signs and miracles, *“That ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name”* (Jn.20:31); nevertheless, Jesus was marked as a mad man that was illegitimately born out of fornication (Mk.3:21, Jn.8:41). Jesus’ own brothers were offended by Him, His zeal, and claim to be the Messiah; furthermore, the Son of God had no place to lay his head at night (Mt.13:57, Jn.7:3-5, Lk.9:58). Christ was hated without cause, and was shamed for His zeal surrounding the will of His Father to the point that He became a stranger and alien to those closest to Him. Nevertheless, the fervent zeal of Christ prevailed over all the costs to Him from a personal perspective as He finished His Father’s will by His death, burial, and resurrection. Luke 9:51 displays this, *“When the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem”*; furthermore, Isaiah 50:7 reiterates, *“Therefore have I set my face like a flint”*. Christ maintained His zeal for the Father’s will and His place of worship all throughout His ministry; when the time came to obey the will of His Father, He hardened his face in commitment to obey His Father. Paul would reveal the culmination of Christ’s zeal in Acts 20:28, *“...to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood”*. Our Savior was fervently zealous for the house of the LORD; the daily question remains: Are we zealous for the House of Lord? What do we allow to easily thwart us from going to the *“House of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth”*?

Secondary to the Savior, David prefigured the Lord in his zeal for the House of the LORD. David *“Danced before the LORD with all his might”* when the ark of God was finally brought to Mount Zion (II Sam.6:12-19). David’s obedience and delight were not diminished even though his wife, Michal, *“Despised him in her heart”* (II Sam.6:16). II Samuel 7:2 highlights David’s desire to build a permanent dwelling for the ark of covenant, *“See now, I dwell in an house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains”*. Furthermore, David was zealous to collect the necessary materials for the temple; I Chronicles 28:20 reveals his encouragement to Solomon in actually building the temple, *“Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD”*. Finally, I Chronicles 29:2 shows the culmination of David’s zeal for the building of the temple, *“Now I have prepared with all my might for the house of my God...”* David understood the glory and majesty of being in the LORD’s presence in the tabernacle, and desired to build a permanent location for believers to physically *“Stand in awe”* of their Creator (Ps.33.6-8). David experienced so many obstacles to obey and put the LORD first, but his zeal for dwelling in the LORD’s presence drove his commitment. Is our service to the Savior centered on the House of God like David? Or do we toil for the things of the world above and beyond the extent that is needed?

Furthermore, David would write Psalms about his zeal, love, and desire for the house of the Lord, most notably in Psalms 27, 63, 69, and 84. In Psalm 84, the Psalmist would write a praise for the sons of Korah, the keepers of the gate to the tabernacle, to sing while worshipers entered into the tabernacle after their pilgrimage to Zion (I Chron. 9:17-20). The psalmist,

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presumably David, envied the small sparrows that made their nest by the altars within the tabernacle. The feeble sparrow and fragile swallow constantly abode in the presence of the LORD of Host, King, and God; David knew the blessing of being in the place of worship, and longed to be there (Ps.84:1-3). Not only did David envy their continual dwelling in the house of the LORD, but he provided the beautiful imagery of the small, feeble, and foolish having intimate access with the Almighty Creator (Is.57:15, Mt.10:29-31). Psalm 84:5-7 reveals the challenging journey of worshipers to the place of worship; verse 5 indicates, “*In whose heart are the ways of them*”, which the Hebrew reads literally the “*Highways in their hearts*”. This nugget shows that the hearts of worshippers had the highway to the place of worship engrained in their heart; as the struggles and obstacles arose, their hearts were fixed on getting to Zion. The Psalms of David revealed his heart and fervor for being in the place of worship with “*My King, and My God*” (Ps.84:3). How strong is your desire to be in the place of worship? As the work week consumes us and the obstacles arise, do we fix our heart and plan our life to be in the house of God?

One cannot ignore the obstacles, temptations, loneliness, and disappointment the Lord went through to obey His Father in regards to the House of the Lord; His fortitude and commitment stemmed from the fact that He was eaten up or consumed with fervent zeal to obey. Similarly, David’s life highlighted the arduous battle on several fronts to establish a permanent place of worship that was accessible to the LORD’s people. All of this was based on their zeal for the house of the LORD – the earthly place to worship the “*High and Lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy*”.

Where do we place our zeal? What aspects of life get our fervent attention and energy? Where does our local assembly fall into our priorities? Do we long and faint at the opportunity to assemble in the presence of our Creator and King? The true reality of our faith is manifested when our faith is put to the test, and when obedience is going to cost. Like Peter, we can boldly declare our love and commitment, but what does it matter if we run and hide when the test comes? If our zeal to assemble with the LORD is lacking in a time of passive persecution, then how will it hold up in overt persecution?

*Yet I will rejoice in the LORD,
I will joy in the God of my salvation.
Habakkuk 3:18*

BIBLE BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY SPRING LECTURE SERIES

After being thwarted twice by Covid-19 in 2020 by having to cancel both the Bible Baptist Theological Seminary Spring and Fall Lecture Series, Bible Baptist Church is pleased to announce that the Bible Baptist Theological Seminary 2021 Spring Lecture Series will be housed at Galilean Baptist Church in Stafford Springs, CT, on Friday, April 9, 2021. By the grace of God, Covid-19 will have to take a back seat (on back row) this year, as Pastor Stephen Hinebaugh has graciously offered his church building facility to house the Bible Baptist Theological Seminary 2021 Spring Lecture Series. The format will be the same, starting at 9 AM and concluding at 3 PM with a delicious luncheon planned from 11:30 AM to 1 PM. Dr. Thomas Strouse will present “*Biblical Soteriology: “I Will Joy in the God of my Salvation”*” (Hab. 3:18). Please RSVP by April 1, 2021.

THE MOVING OF THE WATER

Text: John 5:1-10



Pastor Cas Reeves

The account of the moving of the water reveals the way the Lord works among His people and can be likened to the way He works today among His people and His church. We note the similarities with this account and the New Testament churches today. First, where the moving of the water took place was a designated place where the working of the Lord would happen (v.2-3). Second, the moving of the water was a designated or regular occurrence (v.3). The moving of the water was for a particular group of people (v.3). They were people in need: infirm or so weak they needed assistance. They were people who needed help: blind, halt (lame) and withered (paralyzed), And they were people of hope, who came expecting a blessing (v.3).

As well, the moving of the water was a heavenly occurrence (v.4). It was angelic. It had an angel or heavenly messenger or envoy which brought the blessing and the moving of the water. It occurred at a certain season (an appointed time). The water was troubled (stirred) like the water of the word stirs the hearts of men when preached. It is a special time in which the Lord does bless.

Also revealed in this account is the compassion of Jesus Christ the Son of God. He knows the need of the infirm or sinner (v.6). He listens to the infirm or sinner when there is genuine sincere inquiry (v.7). And He helps the infirm or the sinner (v.8), and when He does help, its results are immediate, complete and life changing (v.9). And finally, His help is not without controversy (v.10).

Have you recognized the results of the moving of the water in your life as the Lord has stirred within your local church with His words from His messenger? -CAR

BBC/BBTS 2021 SCHEDULE

January 28

Spring Semester Begins
Thursdays 6-9 PM
Gospel of Mark

March 1-5

Cromwell, CT
Module
Johannine Epistles

April 9

BBTS Spring Lecture Series
Stafford Springs, CT
Biblical Soteriology

YOUTH WINTER RETREAT

Galilean Baptist Church in Stafford Springs, CT announced the 2nd Annual Youth Winter Retreat. The dates are February 11-13 for youth between the ages of 12-18. For more information please contact Pastor Hinebaugh at pastor@galileanbaptistchurchct.com

Quotes from the Past



"United we stand,
divided we fall.
Let us not split into
factions which must
destroy that union
upon which our
existence hangs."

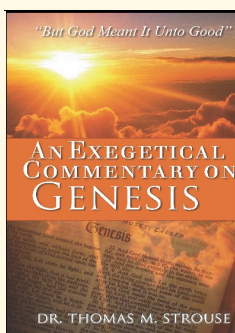
Patrick Henry 1736-1799
Early American Patriot

THE BOOK CORNER

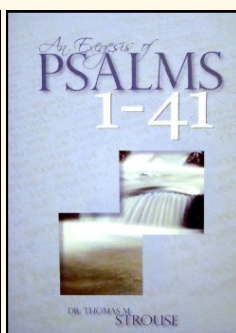
These books may be purchased through

Bible Baptist Church
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Cromwell, CT 06416
860-229-5387

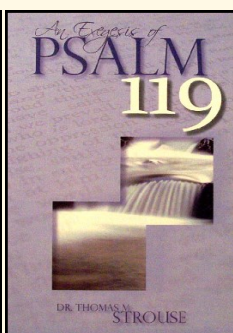
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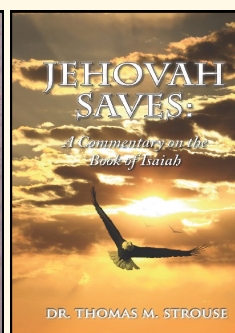
Genesis
\$20.00



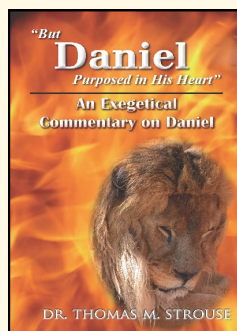
Psalms 1-41
\$20.00



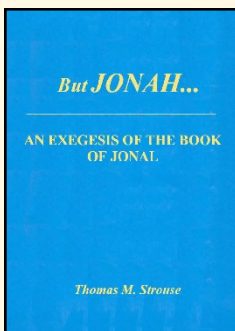
Psalm 119
\$20.00



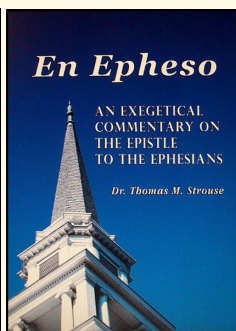
Isaiah
\$20.00



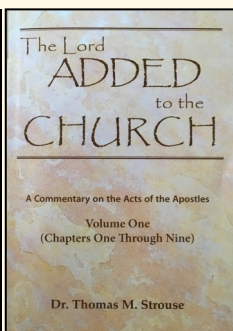
Daniel
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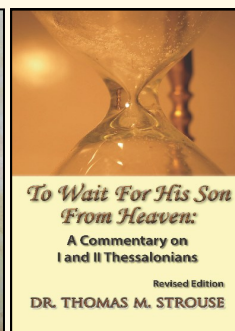
Jonah
\$10.00



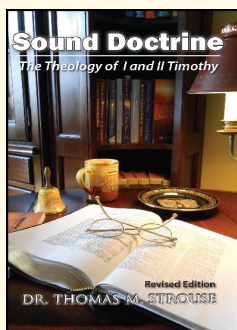
Ephesians
\$20.00



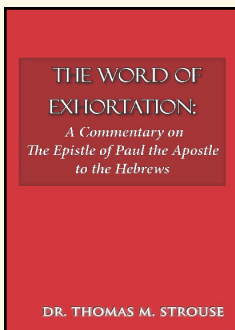
Acts 1-9
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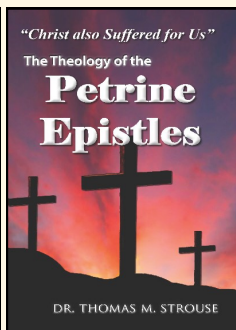
1 & 2 Thessalonians
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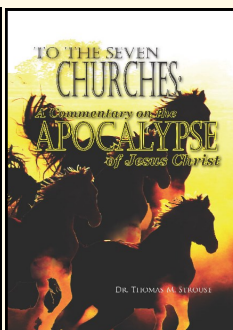
1 & 2 Timothy
\$20.00



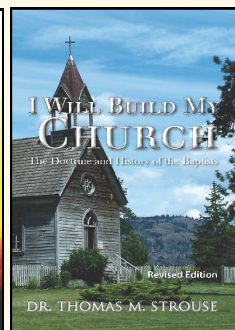
Hebrews
\$30.00



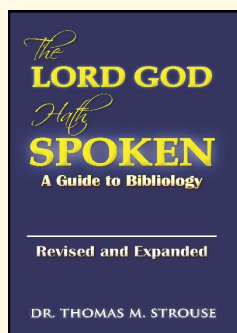
Peter
\$20.00



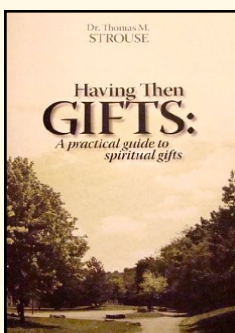
Revelation
\$30.00



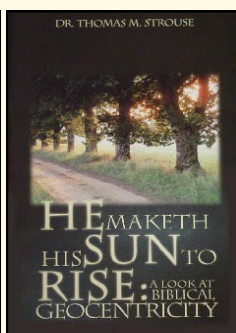
Baptist Doctrine & History
\$15.00



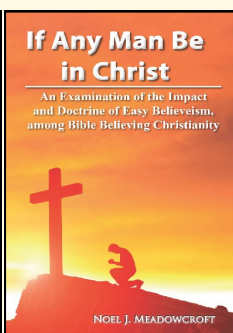
Bibliology
\$15.00



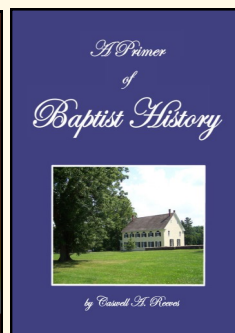
Spiritual Gifts
\$8.00



Geocentricity
\$10.00



Easy-Believeism
\$10.00



Baptist History
\$20.00

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



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