



# BBC UPDATE



Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

## VACATION IN INDIANA

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Strouse had the opportunity take a short vacation to their home state of Indiana to see family members, including their daughter Kristen, his brother Bill, and his mother-in-law Jessie. Also, they attended the 63<sup>rd</sup> Speedway High School class reunion, organized by his boyhood friend Mike Graves and his wife June. Finally, on Sunday, Dr. and Mrs. Strouse visited the church of former seminary student, Dr. Kent Brandenburg, pastor of South Decatur Baptist Church in Westport, IN.



*Speedway High School 63rd Reunion*

Pastor Brandenburg came to the church, and he and wife began to evangelize the county and retrieved the church out of near extinction. Having pastored many years in California, he left and planted a church in Oregon and turned it over to one of his trained church members. He returned to his home state of Indiana and now pastors with strong preaching, teaching, and outreach. It was good to see his faithfulness in promoting godly living and strong local church accountability of the members.

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## VACATION IN INDIANA (CONCLUSION)

Pastor Brandenburg preached an excellent exposition of Mt. 17:22-27 entitled “The Submissive Citizen of Heaven: Fulfilling Earthly Obligations.” He organized the message around the Pattern, Principle, Provision, and Perimeter of fulfilling earthly obligations, using his unique expressions and clever subtleties for a fine-tuned and poignant sermon of truth and conviction.



*Dr. Strouse with Dr. Kent Brandenburg,  
Pastor of South Decatur Baptist Church*

It was a great joy to hear his biblical exposition and to fellowship with him and church members. We are thankful to this former seminarian and man of God! Dr. Strouse was privileged to write several articles in the long overdue and unique book Dr. Brandenburg had edited, *Thou Shalt Keep Them*.

After the service, one of his faithful church families, Mr. Matt and Stacey Thompson and their daughters Ruth, Ann, and Julie, invited them to dinner for food and fellowship.

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## BBTS UPDATES

### Pennsylvania Module



*Mighty Men of PA*

### New Book on Psalms 73-89

*An Exegesis of Psalms 73-89* by  
Dr. Thomas M. Strouse and  
Dr. M. Ryan Strouse due in  
late Fall of 2026.

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## NEW BOOK IN THE OFFING

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Soon to be published is “*Set Me as a Seal upon Thine Heart.*”  
*A Commentary on the Song of Solomon.* 253 pages and 825 footnotes.

### Excerpt

The LORD God gave the first couple in the Garden of Eden the institution of marriage so that they would populate the newly created earth, but also that they would not fornicate! As Adam named the animals, he obviously observed that they were sexual creatures, as he was, engaged in the enjoyment of being fruitful and multiplying. He recognized that he needed a sexual partner to enjoy in the “garden of hedonism.” Immediately, the LORD presented the parameters for the adamic race as a monogamous relationship within the institution of marriage. The Lord Jesus Christ reverted to the biblical standard required in the Genesis account when pressed by the Pharisees (Mt. 19:5-6). Later, the Apostle Paul repeated and expanded the biblical truth, instructing the formerly practicing fornicators and adulterers of pagan Corinth in the exclusively divine parameters of sex within marriage (I Cor. 7:1-40).

As Christianity began to go westward, the Lord’s biblical truth became serpentine, especially with the rise of the apostate form of “Christianity” known as the Roman Catholic Church. Augustine advocated sex for procreation only, and later Catholicism opposed the use of contraceptives. Protestantism allowed the use of contraception and permitted the clergy to marry. Western Christianity received these aberrations, which resulted in a mixed view of biblical truth, including abstinence, shame, embarrassment, and awkwardness in dealing with physical intimacy within marriage. Consequently, pastoral preaching and teaching out of the *Song of Solomon* is difficult in spite of Paul’s approval to the fallen race, “*Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge*” (Heb. 13:4).

Today, in western civilization immorality is rampant with very little concern about or practice of the biblical perspective of the institution of marriage. The world is hedonistic through and through, caring not about divine consequences. Adultery, sodomy, and bestiality are the preferences and

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## NEW BOOK (CONCLUSION)

practices of lost mankind. However, in conservative Christianity, it seems that for many pastors and believers, the attitude about and discussion of, whether in preaching or teaching is that “sex is dirty!” The fall of Adam and the consequent curse on man did not change the divine approval about the enjoyment of sex within biblical marriage. The sacred truth about God’s wonderful and enjoyable gift of the one flesh union within His institution of marriage finds heavenly exhortation and encouragement in the inspired and preserved words of the canonical book of the *Song of Solomon*! King Solomon wrote and then read his *Song* publicly to the all the congregation of Israel.

The LORD led Titus to express the biblical approach to all areas including the thoughts, expressions, and practice of sex. He said, “*Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled*” (Tit. 1:15). The *Song of Solomon* is the test for the reader and exegete. Is the interpretation about the relationship of Solomon and the Shulamite concerned with purity or defilement? Was the couple moral or immoral? One must interpret about the man and the woman whether they were sexually engaged after marriage or before marriage? The precious Saviour declared “*A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things*” (Mt. 12:35). The Apostle Paul followed with the exhortation, saying, “*Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things*” (Phil. 4:8). The interpretation of the canonical *Book of Canticles* reflects the heart of the reader and exegete! Is the *Song of Solomon* biblical revelation about the purity and pleasure of God’s divine gift within the institution of marriage, or is it a sordid and lurid presentation of raw and “dirty sex”? The heart of the casual reader, the church member, the pastor, and even the exegetical theologian are all under spiritual scrutiny concerning the approach and interpretation of the *Song of Solomon*!



## BBC GAME NIGHT

On June 19th, BBC members gathered for a night of fun and fellowship, with food and games for everyone. Praise the Lord for opportunities to strengthen one another!



## BBC / BBTS SCHEDULE

### BBC/BBTS 2026 SCHEDULE

**July 20-24, 2026**  
**Calvary Baptist Church**  
Plymouth, NH  
*I and II Thessalonians*

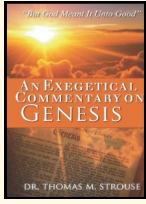
**Oct. 18-21, 2026**  
**Willow Grove Baptist Church**  
Waynesburg, PA  
*Timeless Truths Bible Conference*

**Sep. 28-Oct. 2, 2026**  
**Bible Baptist Church**  
Nashua, NH  
*Isaiah*

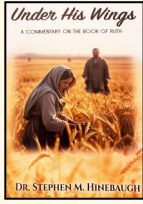
**Nov. 6, 2026**  
**BBTS Fall Lecture Series**  
TBD

# The Publication Page

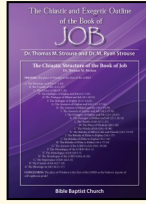
The books on this page may be purchased by contacting Bible Baptist Church at 860-930-9960 or drtms\_bbts@juno.com



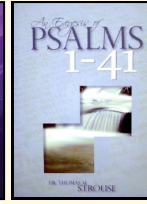
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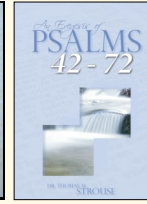
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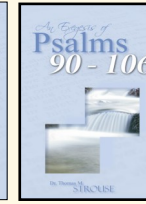
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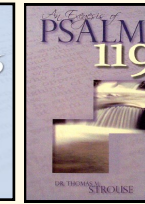
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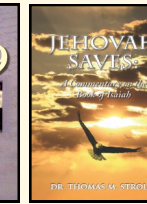
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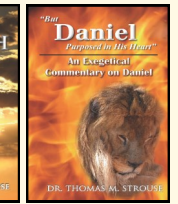
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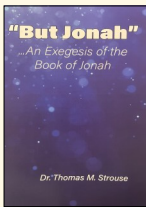
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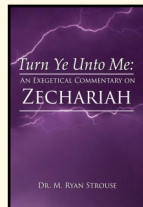
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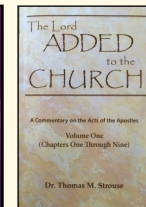
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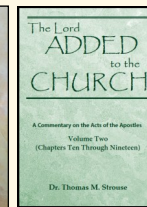
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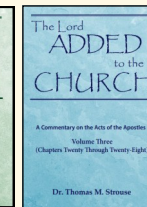
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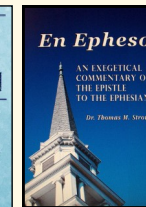
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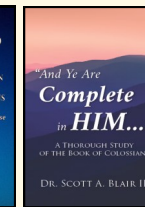
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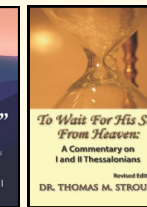
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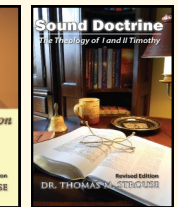
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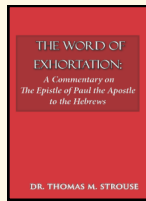
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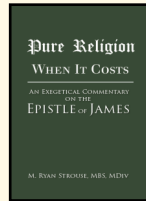
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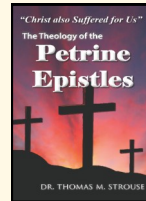
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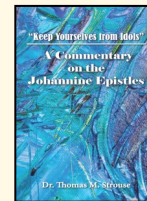
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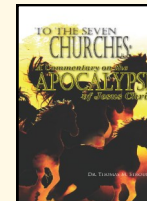
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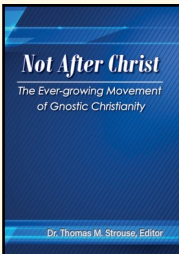
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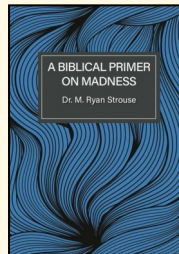
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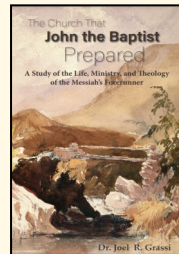
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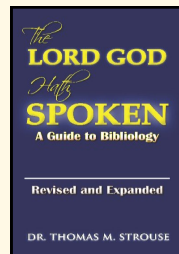
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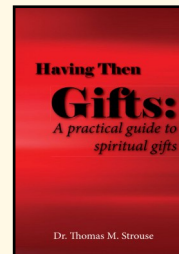
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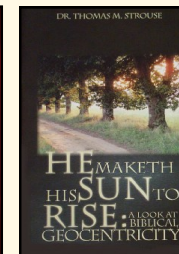
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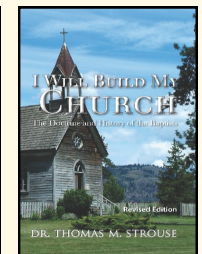
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**Spiritual Gifts**  
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If you have any news for the next issue of the BBC Update, please send an email to drtms\_bbts@juno.com



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