



BBC UPDATE

2015 Fall Lecture Series

Dr. Thomas Strouse



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The attack upon the Bible is intensifying, especially with regard to the Lord's divine will for all of mankind (II Tim. 3:1). The Lord God instituted His plan of marriage for Adam and Eve, and subsequently for all men, in the Garden of Eden before their fall into sin (Gen. 3:24). Adam needed a marital partner or help mate to propagate the race (Gen. 2:18-23), and consequently Jehovah did not give Adam one of the named animals (bestiality), and He did not give Adam another man (homosexuality = sodomy), but he gave Adam one woman, his wife Eve. The Lord's initial plan was for the couple, the man and the woman, to produce "a godly seed" (Mal. 2:15). Satan, who was in the Garden, wanted to thwart this divine plan, and has deceived the multitude with numerous diabolical alternatives, including sodomy, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, transvestitism, transgender mutilation, etc.

The BBTs 2015 Fall Lecture series is planned to be a public forum for the preachers to inform and instruct Christians specifically and the public generally about the following biblically related subjects:

1. "How to Plan for a Christian Wedding and Marriage." Dr. Cas Reeves (Pastor, Heritage Baptist Church, Endicott, NY).
2. "The Bible and Marriage." Dr. Thomas Strouse (Pastor, Bible Baptist Church, Cromwell, CT).
3. "The Bible and Sodomy." Pastor Ken Brooks (Pastor, Calvary Independent Baptist Church, West Redding, CT).

BBTS Fall Lecture Series

BBC is planning on hosting the BBTS Fall Lecture Series at the Courtyard Marriott in Cromwell, CT on Friday, Nov. 13, 2015. The subject will be the biblical institution of marriage, giving a public forum for the defense of "The Bible and Marriage." With so many perverted attacks upon the Lord's plan for mankind (e.g., adultery, fornication, sodomy, lesbianism, trans-genderism, etc.), Christians need to know what the Bible says about the following subjects:

1. "Planning for a Christian Marriage" by Dr. Cas Reeves (8:30-10 AM).
2. "The Bible and Marriage" by Dr. Thomas Strouse (10-11:30 AM).
3. "The Bible and Sodomy" by Pastor Ken Brooks (1-3 PM).

Please RSVP soon.



Dr. Cas Reeves



Dr. Thomas Strouse



Pastor Ken Brooks



The Biblical History and Theological Teaching Concerning Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage



**Dr. Thomas M. Strouse, Pastor
Bible Baptist Church**

In the Old Testament

1. The Lord gave the three basic requirements for marriage prior to sin (Gen. 2:24):

- a. Leaving (social aspect)
- b. Cleaving (spiritual aspect)
- c. Weaving (sexual aspect)

2. Lamech was the first to violate God's example of one mate by his bigamy, which rebellion manifested in Lamech's murderous behavior and pride (Gen. 4:19-24).

3. Noah and Abraham were faithful in the institution of marriage (Gen. 7:7; 23:1 with 25:1) but Jacob (and hence "the children of Israel") set the pattern for the violation of the divine will of one mate for life and consequently perpetuated marital aberrations (Gen. 29:21 ff.).

4. Moses gave legislation to protect the woman in a society already practicing divorce (Dt. 24:1-4; also Dt. 21:15). He did not institute divorce since its origin is with man and not God. Moses taught that when the following conditions occur then the husband must give a bill of divorcement:

- a. The wife is married to husband #1
- b. He divorces her.
- c. He must give her a bill of divorcement
- d. She may marry husband #2
- e. He divorces her
- f. He must give her a bill of divorcement
- g. Husband #1 cannot marry her again.

5. Divorce was not granted for the following:
 - a. In the case of adultery—but death (Dt. 22:22-24)
 - b. In the case of pre-marital sex—but marriage (Dt. 22:28-29)
 - c. In the case of false accusation concerning status of virginity—but chastening, money payment to virgin's father, continued marriage (Dt. 22:13-19)

6. Both David and Solomon rejected God's pattern (Gen. 2:24) and violated his prohibition about multiple marriages and suffered many physical and spiritual tragedies (Dt. 17:17; II Sam. 11-12; I Ki. 11 ff.).

7. Because Jews had married pagan Gentiles during the exile (contra Dt. 7:1-4), Ezra commanded "the Jews of the restoration" to put away their foreign wives so that they would not fall into idolatry (Ezra 9-10). Later, Nehemiah repeated the message to put away strange wives (Neh. 13).

- a. Divorce was allowed in the special case to protect the national Jewish restoration.
- b. Divorce was allowed to prevent idolatrous relationships within the Jewish families.

8. Culminating the Jew's history of rebelling against God's standard for marriage, the Jewish men broke their marital covenant with their wives by divorcing them. God hates divorce ("the LORD...hateth putting away" [Mal. 2:16]). Divorce characterized their wicked, hard hearts and brought God's condemnation. Malachi took the Jews back to Moses' teaching that Jehovah gave Adam only one wife (although He could have given several) so that they would produce a godly seed (Mal. 2:15).

In the New Testament

1. Joseph set the biblical pattern for divorce by attempting to divorce Mary (for assumed fornication) before physical consummation (Mt. 1:18-25). The Lord Jesus and Mary lived under the assumed and false charge (from unbelievers) that He was born of fornication (Jn. 8:41).

2. Christ condemned the practice that required Moses' legislation (Dt. 24:1-4) and prohibited divorce and remarriage with one exception (Mt. 5:31-32). The exception was what Joseph potentially attempted to do: divorce his wife (to be) before physical consummation (Mt. 1:18-24).

3. The Lord repeated His teaching concerning Dt. 24:1-4 in Mt. 19:1-12:

a. Divorce varied from and was contrary to the Lord's original purposes—vv. 4-5 (Gen. 2:24).

b. He warned about putting asunder what God has joined together—v. 6.

c. Moses legislated protection for divorced wives because of the hardness of the hearts of society. The proclivity of Israel from the beginning was to violate God's plan of single spouse with no divorce, and so the Lord gave them what they wanted which led to social disaster within the nation of Israel (cf. Num. 11:17-20 and Rom. 1:24 ff. for this principle).

d. The disciples' response indicated that they understood Christ's teaching that marriage was for life and so they must make the right first choice (v. 10).

4. John the Baptist denounced the gentile practice of divorce and remarriage after physical consummation that Herod and Herodias practiced, against God's law ("it is not lawful"—whose law? The Roman's or the Lord's? [v. 18]) in Mk. 6:14-29.

5. The Gospels of Mark and Luke were written to Gentiles who practiced divorce after physical consummation and therefore there is no stated "exception clause" (Mk. 10:1 ff. and Lk. 16:16).

6. Paul, writing to Jews in Rome, made an important theological point based on the biblical principle that only death breaks the marriage bond (no reference to fornication) and therefore the living spouse may remarry. Christians are dead to the law, not divorced from it, and are married to Christ (Rom. 7:1-4).

7. The Corinthians wrote Paul asking about six questions concerning marriage and the Christian (I Cor. 7). He responded with six answers.

a. What is the purpose of marriage (vv. 1-9)?

b. May Christians divorce (vv. 10-11)?

c. What about mixed marriages (vv. 12-24)?

d. What about virgins and unmarried (vv. 25-35)?

e. What about Christian fathers and their daughters (vv. 36-38)?

f. What about widows (vv. 39-40)?

8. Paul revealed the divine standard for bishops and deacons concerning marriage. They are to be husbands of one wife (living) similar to qualified widows who are to be wives of one husband (now deceased) in I Tim. 3:2, 12; 5:9.

Summary

1. The Lord's original plan was "one wife for life." 4000 years after creation Christ affirmed the original instruction and pattern given in the Garden. John the Baptist and the Apostle Paul perpetuated Christ's teaching.

2. Mankind and Jews, having the natural proclivity for rebellion and for being covenant breakers, resisted God's pattern and explicit teaching.

3. The provision of "the bill of divorcement" for the divorced Jewish woman was permitted to legislate social protection.

4. Divorce from Gentiles was allowed when national Jewish identity and purity were at stake.

5. Jews may divorce during betrothal period and before physical consummation (God's plan).

6. Neither Jews nor Gentiles were permitted to divorce after physical consummation (man's plan).

Application

1. Any sin can be forgiven, even the sins of divorce or divorce and remarriage (I Jn. 1:9).

2. The Lord's candlestick may receive any repentant and saved sinner including divorcees and remarried divorcees, and except for the offices of bishop and deacon, they may serve fully and effectively in the assembly. There are no "second class citizens" in the assembly (I Cor. 6:9-11)!

3. Single Christians should plan to marry God's choice for life with no "backdoor" to the marriage (I Cor. 7:39).

4. Divorced Christians should not seek another spouse. Divorce does not break the marriage bond; only death breaks the marriage bond (Rom. 7:2-3; I Cor. 7:11).

5. Divorced and remarried Christians should acknowledge their sin, repent of the initial sin that brought them into this union (Mk. 10:11-12), continue in their marriage, and support the biblical teaching and pattern (I Jn. 1:9; I Cor. 7:11).

6. As in all relationships, forgiveness (Mt. 18:21-22) and reconciliation (II Cor. 5:17-21) must be practiced in all marriages.

2015 BBTS Fall Semester

The 2015 BBTS Fall Semester is off to a good start with several new resident seminarians and many others studying through the online courses on our website www.bbc-cromwell.org. See the 2015 BBTS Fall Semester schedule.

Fall Semester Courses/ Online Ministry

**Please note some schedule changes*

Bible Baptist Theological Seminary, a ministry of Bible Baptist Church, is beginning its sixth academic year with the following fall semester courses:



Monday: Baptist History II, 9 AM-Noon

Hebrew II, 1-3 PM

Wednesday: Romans, 9 AM-Noon

Thursday: Joshua, 6-9 PM

Serious seminarians seeking one of several degrees (Certificate of Theology; Bachelor of Divinity; Master of Biblical Studies; Master of Divinity; Master of Theology; Doctor of Ministry; Doctor of Theology) from BBTS may use a combination of venues to accomplish this goal:

1. Take residential courses each semester for 16 weeks.
2. Take area one-week modules in various locations in the States and world-wide.
3. Take seminary courses online at www.bbc-cromwell.org (These courses may be taken at your own pace, submitting class assignments regularly and completing financial obligations [\$100.00 per credit hour]).

For more information, please contact the BBTS Dean at drtms_BBTS@juno.com

Happy Helpers



Every Sunday, after the mid day meal, the young ladies happily help with the clean up process.



BBC HAPPENINGS



Spotted!

Pastor Strouse spotted some familiar faces while teaching the module at Fair Haven, the Haggglunds! Mrs. Laura Haggglund with children Krista and Eric drove from their new home near Chicago to join Pastor Strouse at Fairhaven Baptist College in Indiana.



DEVOTIONAL CORNER

Expedient



Pastor Cas Reeves

Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you (John 16:7).

Speaking to his disciples, the Lord shared with them that it was expedient for them that he go away. It is clear that he was speaking of his death, and resurrection, and ascension into heaven to be at the right and of His Father. So what was He trying to share with them and what did it mean for them; and not only them but for every born-again Believer subsequent to this time.

In reading the verse, what pops right out at the reader is that when the Lord goes from them, He will not leave them alone, but will send them a Comforter, a paraklete. This Greek word speaks of "one called along side to aid." It is without question this help by the Holy Spirit gives the Believer comfort.

Not so clearly seen, but clearly evident under the microscope of Greek, is another very important work of the Holy Spirit or Comforter in the Believer's life. This work is found in the word expedient, symphero. What this Greek word signifies, is "to bear together," reflecting an image of when two are bearing a load, burden, or task rather than one person. The truth that the Lord Jesus was telling his disciples, was that it was in their best interest for him to go from them, so that, He could send them the Comforter to help them bear their responsibilities toward Him.

Perhaps if the Believer thought about his burdens, and responsibilities as a one hundred pound sack of potatoes that he was carrying into the kitchen and how much easier it would be if someone else was on the other side of the sack, helping to carry it. Now this is exactly what the Lord is saying, I have to go so I can send you a helper. That helper is the Holy Spirit, helping and empowering Believers to carry their burdens and responsibilities.

-CAR

QUOTES FROM THE PAST:

Ulysses S. Grant 1822-1885

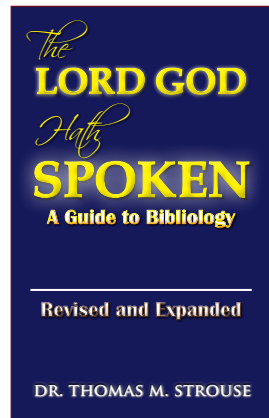
18th President of the USA



Ulysses S. Grant

On Preparation: *"Hold fast to the Bible. To the influence of this Book we are indebted for all the progress made in true civilization and to this we must look as our guide in the future."*

The Lord GOD Hath Spoken: Revised and Expanded.

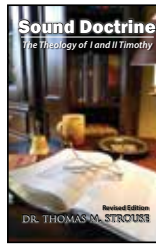


What does the Bible say about its own inspiration, preservation, inerrancy, and availability? The recent reprint of *The Lord GOD Hath Spoken* is an effort to allow Scripture to answer these questions. This expanded volume includes the essays of Dr. Thomas Strouse as he gives the biblical defense for the KJV and underlying texts, representing forty-five years of seasoned argumentation through theological essays and public debates for the word of God.

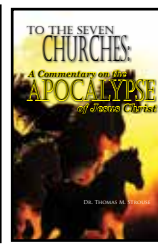
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The Book Corner

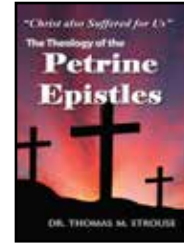
These Books may be purchased through **Bible Baptist Church:**
40 Country Squire Rd.
Cromwell, CT 06416
860-229-5387



I & II Timothy \$20.00



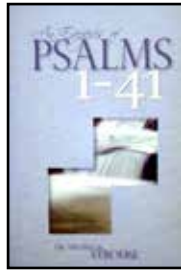
Revelation \$30.00



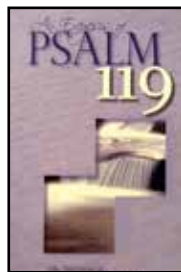
Peter \$20.00



I & II Thessalonians \$20.00



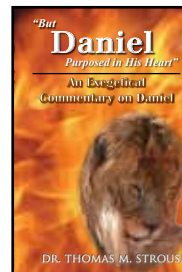
Psalms 1 - 41 \$20.00



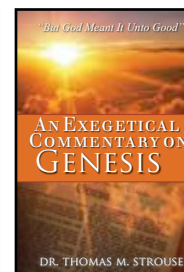
Psalm 119 \$20.00



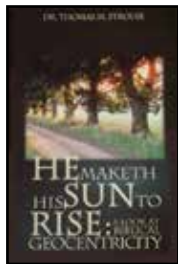
Spiritual Gifts \$8.00



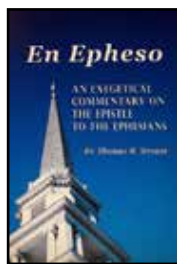
Daniel \$20.00



Genesis \$20



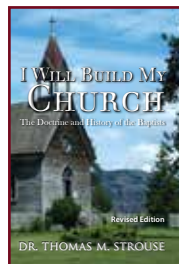
Geocentricity \$10.00



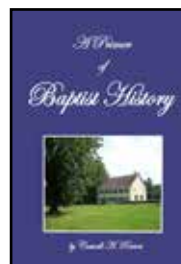
En Epheso \$20.00



Jonah \$10.00



I Will Build My Church \$15.00



A Primer of Baptist History \$20.00



The Lord God Hath Spoken \$15.00

Grow in Grace Ministry

Bible Baptist Church has begun a new ministry for the BBC women. Each day a Scripture with an accompanying challenge for application will be sent via email to our women. The purpose of the ministry is to encourage, strengthen, and challenge ladies to grow in the Word of God. For those interested in participating, please contact the pastor at drtms_bbts@juno.com.

8/17/15: Jeremiaħ 32:17

8/21/15: Matthew 6:9

8/26/15: Isaiah 14:13-14

8/18/15: 1 Thessalonians 5:18

8/22/15: Galatians 6:2

8/27/15: 1 Corithains 15:10

8/19/15: Galatians 6:2

8/24/15: Isaiah 55:8

8/28/15: Titus 2:9

8/20/15: Hebrews 1:1-2

8/25/15: Matthew 7:17-23

8/31/15: Psalm 68:19

If you have any news for the next issue of the BBC Update, please send email to:

drtms_bbts@juno.com



Bible Baptist Theological Seminary

A ministry of Bible Baptist Church

40 Country Squire Road

Cromwell, CT 06416

860-613-2096

www.bbc-cromwell.org