



# BBC UPDATE

## “Ye Cannot Serve the LORD”



*Dr. Thomas M. Strouse*

As Bible Baptist Church embarks on the year 2019, the members need to consider the response of Joshua who challenged the nation of Israel—“*Ye cannot serve the LORD.*” Joshua had just affirmed that he and his house would serve the LORD (Josh. 24:15). He challenged the Jews about a wholehearted service to Jehovah while forsaking the gods of their previous heritage. They affirmed that they would serve Jehovah Who delivered them from Egypt and gave them the Promised Land (Josh. 24:18). Joshua countered their affirmation stating that the LORD was a Holy and Jealous God (Lev. 19:2; Ex. 20:5). The leader of Israel knew that the people had a problem with holy living and exclusive worship. Their collective promise was empty if they would not focus exclusively on Jehovah in their hearts and publicly demonstrate obedience to Him. For the second time the people affirmed their allegiance

to Jehovah (Josh. 24:21). Joshua gave another caveat about putting away strange gods, and they affirmed that their testimony to do so was their witness. For the third time (Dt. 19:15), the children of Israel affirmed their loyalty to Jehovah and their desire to serve Him (Josh. 24:24).

If the professing Christian does not cleave to the Lord Jesus Christ, then the expression “*ye cannot serve the LORD*” will prove true. The way Christians publicly demonstrate their love for the Lord will be reflected in faithful church attendance and service. In 2019 there will be 52 Sundays and 52 Wednesdays for Christians to be present and active in church services. If the church member does not have a wholehearted love for the Lord, then the desire to be faithful will wane, suggesting the rebuke “*ye cannot serve the LORD.*” As church members, let us demonstrate our love for the Saviour through faithful attendance and service in His assembly.

## New Year's Eve Get-Together

Several of the youth of BBC gathered at Pastor's house in his newly remodeled basement to spend New Year's Eve together. It was a blessed time of fun and fellowship. everyone enjoyed pizza, snacks, and candy, and played lively games. Ryan led a short devotional in which he encouraged everyone to live a spirit-filled life this new year and beyond. Everyone who attended was truly encouraged and enjoyed themselves.



*More Photos on Page 2*

**January 1, 2019**

# NEW YEAR'S EVE

Continued from Page 1

New Year's Eve

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Youth Get-Together



Jack joined the group and fit right in!



All listened attentively while Ryan led a short devotion.



Everyone enjoyed playing a few rounds of Catchphrase



Pastor Cas Reeves

## Enduring Hardness Illustrated

As the Apostle Paul wrote his final epistle to Timothy, he instructed this man of God to endure hardness or hardships. As a practical application, all believers should endure the hardships which they will encounter for the sake of Christ.

As the Apostle Paul was writing to Timothy, he was in the midst of enduring his final hardship...his imprisonment before his death. Paul illustrates enduring hardship with three illustrations (2 Timothy 2:3-6). The first illustration is as a good soldier (3-4) who endures the hardship of soldiering: the physical and mental strains, the combat itself, and all the elements of nature that must be endured as a good soldier (3-4). The second illustration is that of an athlete (5) who is competing for a crown in a foot-race and who must compete by the rules or lawfully. He endures great physical stresses upon his body in order to finish the race. And the third illustration is the husbandman or farmer (6) who must endure great physical labor, finance, and time in order to plant, cultivate, and reap a good harvest of agricultural goods in order that he may partake of the fruits of his labor.

We are the soldiers of Christ that are in a spiritual warfare. We are running the race that God has given to all believers, a race that glorifies God. And we are laborers in the field of the Lord, sowing, cultivating, and reaping souls by the Word of God. Therefore let us endure the hardships that befall us that we might please Christ our Savior. -CAR

The Lord willing, 2019 is going to a busy year, and Bible Baptist Church has many events planned which everyone is welcome to attend. Pray that the Lord blesses us with a fruitful year and allows us to carry on these ministries.

To the right is a list of all currently planned functions for 2019 from January through May.

### 2019 Upcoming Events

*January 7-11*

**Dubai Module (I and II Tim.)**

*February 18-22*

**Philippine Module (Minor Prophets I)**

*March 23*

**Baptist Heritage Conference**

*April 12*

**BBTS Spring Lecture Series**

*April 13*

**Ordination Council—Community Baptist Church**

*April 27*

**Ladies' Fellowship**

*May 19*

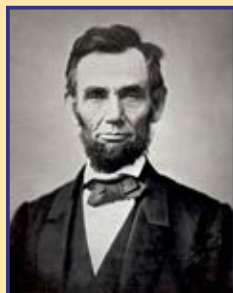
**BBTS Graduation**

### Quotes From the Past:

**Abraham Lincoln**

1809-1865

**16th President of the United States**



*"The only assurance of our nation's safety is to lay our foundation in morality and religion."*



# GROW IN GRACE

## DEVOTIONAL FOR WOMEN

Grow In Grace

4

Devotional for Women

### I Shall Not Want

**Genesis 3:4** And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

**5** For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

**6** And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

**Reflection:** Can we ever exhaust learning from the account of Adam and Eve?

The Bible describes Satan as an accuser, full of lies, malice, and subtil, which is to say shrew and sly. He is far above our intelligence and has had several thousand years to study how mankind is wired, what we crave, what we desire, how we covet, and how to trip us up.

The heart of David expresses his satisfaction and contentment and reliance on the LORD as shepherd of his soul. Can you say that you shall not want?

**Psalms 23:1** (A Psalm of David.) The LORD [is] my shepherd; I shall not want.

Mankind is never satisfied, nor content. The pattern is the same throughout generations beginning in this account with Adam and Eve, to whom the LORD provided everything they could possibly desire. But even in perfection...Adam and Eve had **thoughts** that led to **emotions** that then led to **action**. We are now experiencing the effects of these thoughts, and we are not immune to continuing the same pattern. We may desire to walk in the Spirit, we may grow in our walk in the Spirit, but Satan and his demons are there to effect continually the thoughts we think which cause the choices we make. I wonder if this is why we are continually told to be mindful of our thoughts. Our defeat begins in the mind!

**Challenge:** Be honest, does the Lord satisfy your every desire? Pay attention to what you need today in addition to the Lord. What in your life besides the Lord can you **not do** without? Does the Lord Jesus Christ satisfy your every longing or do you still need to supplement with the ways of the world for your satisfaction?

If you would like to receive Grow in Grace morning devotions emailed to you Monday - Friday, please send an email to: [Elenas6259@gmail.com](mailto:Elenas6259@gmail.com)

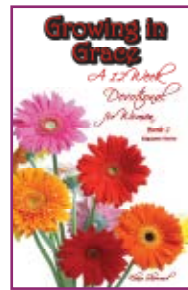
### *Growing in Grace: A 12 Week Devotional for Women Books 1 & 2*



Book 1

This 12 Week Devotional is a ministry of Bible Baptist Church in Cromwell, CT. It is designed for women, and is meant as a support for victory in daily Christian living. Spiritual victory comes by having the Genuine Christ, Accurate Biblical Teaching, Applying the Infallible Word of God, and a Humble Heart.

Using this Devotional Each day you will be given a daily Scripture followed by thoughts upon which to



Book 2

reflect and a challenge for the day. To get the most out of this book, it is encouraged that you take the time each morning to reflect upon and apply each devotion.

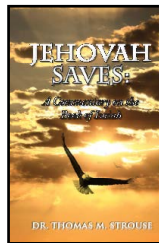
*"Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart." (Psalm 119:2)*

Please contact Bible Baptist Church ([Elenas6259@gmail.com](mailto:Elenas6259@gmail.com)) if you would like a complimentary copy of Book 1 or 2.

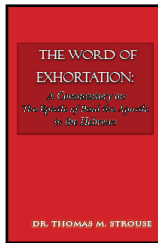
# THE BOOK CORNER

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

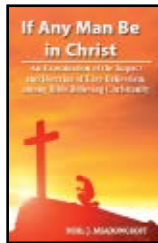
[drtms\\_bbts@juno.com](mailto:drtms_bbts@juno.com)



Isaiah  
\$20.00



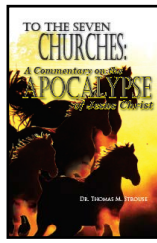
Hebrews  
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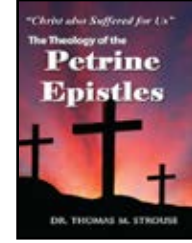
If Any Man Be ...  
\$10.00



I & II Timothy  
\$20.00



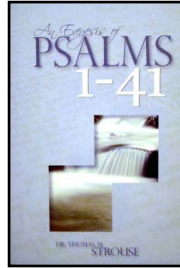
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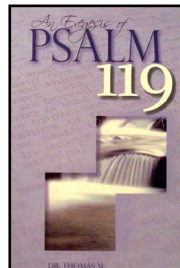
Peter  
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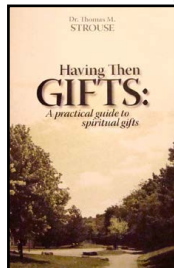
I & II Thessalonians  
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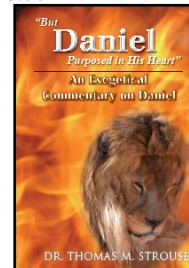
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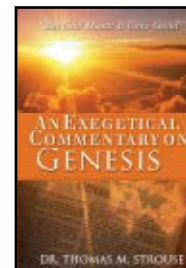
Psalms 119  
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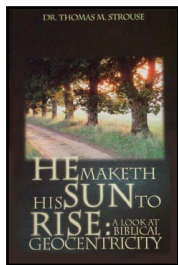
Spiritual Gifts  
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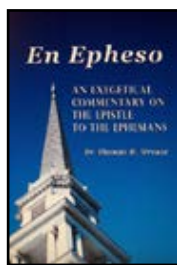
Daniel  
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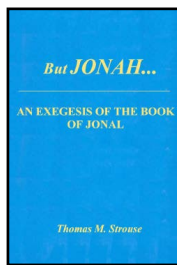
Genesis  
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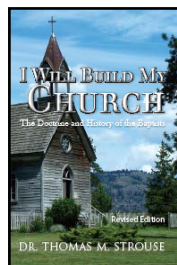
Geocentricity  
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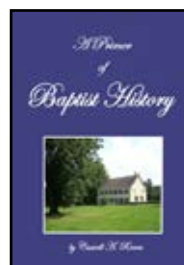
En Epheso  
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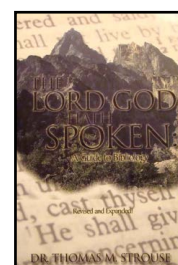
Jonah  
\$10.00



I Will Build My Church  
\$15.00



A Primer of Baptist History  
\$20.00



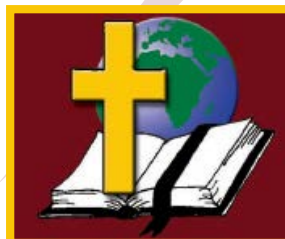
The Lord God Hath Spoken  
\$15.00

BBC men help clean and set up the church after the lunch time.



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

[drtms\\_bbts@juno.com](mailto: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](http://www.bbc-cromwell.org)