



BBC UPDATE

Ireland Module

Dr. Thomas Strouse



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The Lord blessed with another well-attended set of modules in Ireland, hosted by Dr. Bob Zemeski and his church, River Valley Baptist Church, Leixlip, Ireland. Eighteen seminarians (from Africa, England, Hungary, Ireland, and USA) enrolled in and attended the module courses on I Kings and I Corinthians, taught by Dr. Thomas M. Strouse. Already this extension of Bible Baptist Theology Seminary has graduated several from Europe with the Certificate of Theology, Bachelor of Theology, Master of Bible Studies, and Doctor of Divinity degrees. Dr. Strouse had the privilege of preaching in Pastor McKinley's house church as well as in River Valley Baptist Church. During the week, Dr. David Ellsmore released the second edition of his book *The Church which is His Body: Is it Local or Universal?*, and indicated it was available on Amazon as kindle or paperback (see review on Page 3).

Ireland Module students.



Preaching services at Pastor McKinley's house church.



FAMOUS ROCK STAR DIES, AND GOES TO HELL



Dr. Thomas Strouse

Introduction

Solomon stated that the “one event” happens to all, wise man and fool, rich and poor, famous and forgotten, saying, *“The wise man’s eyes are in his head; but the fool walketh in darkness: and I myself perceived also that one event happeneth to them all”* (Eccl. 2:14). Quite often when the rich and famous stars of the entertainment media experience the “one event” of death, the world laments their death, remembers their influence, and promotes their legacy. Little is said about their current status and the future value of their works. Rather than suggesting their pleasant resting place and the enduring value of their legacy, the Bible reveals a grim truth about the deceased and a stark warning for the living.

Two Truths

First, Scripture states the truth that all men are sinners and need a Saviour, saying, *“For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God”* (Rom. 3:23), and *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”* (Rom. 6:23; Jn. 3:16). The only way for any man, famous or unknown, to obtain eternal salvation (II Tim. 2:10) is to repent of sins and receive Christ as Saviour. The Lord Himself said, *“I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish”* (Lk. 13:3, 5), and *“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: 13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God”* (Jn. 1:12-13). The world and Hollywood deny the biblical teaching of Heaven and Hell, but nevertheless believe that the deceased, and especially the famous, go on to a pleasant

existence, somewhere and somehow. The Bible gives the grim consequence of any unrepentant sinner who dies without Christ, saying, *“And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal”* (Mt. 25:46). The Lord Jesus Christ gave the account of the death of a wealthy but unrepentant man. He affirmed, saying, *“There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day...the rich man also died, and was buried; 23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments...”* (Lk. 16:19, 22-23).

Second, the life works and legacy of all will receive examination by God on the basis of conformity to Scripture. Again, Solomon said, *“Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity. 3 What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun?”* (Eccl. 1:2-3), and *“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. 14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil”* (Eccl. 12:13-14). The Apostle John revealed about the final judgment, saying, *“And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works”* (Rev. 20:11-13).

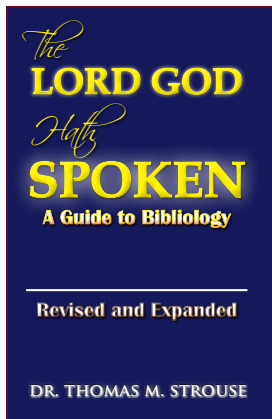
Conclusion

In conclusion, only those who have experienced biblical salvation through repentance of sins and faith in Christ (Mk. 1:15) will enjoy the blessed bliss of heaven, as Paul stated, saying, *“Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: 7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) 8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord”* (II Cor. 5:6-8). Furthermore,

only Christ-honoring service in the local church will stand the consuming fire of God's judgment and will receive reward, as the Apostle stated, saying, "Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. 14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. 15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire" (I Cor. 3:13-15).

When a famous rock star dies, the believer must consider the aforementioned Scriptures as the way to judge reality. The Apostle Paul challenged even church members with a stern warning, saying, "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" (II Cor. 13:5).

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.

BOOK REVIEW

BOOK REVIEW

Dr. David Ellsmore, graduate of Bible Baptist Theological Seminary, released the second edition of his excellent book, *The Church which is His Body: Is it Local or Universal?*, and made it available on Amazon as kindle or paperback. This is a comprehensive treatise dealing with the nature and purpose of Christ's church, which is designated as "His body" in Scripture. Dr. Ellsmore added several appendices and expanded various articles along with charts to give an irrefragable defense of the exclusivity of the local church teaching in Scripture. Every Baptist pastor ought to have a copy and read it thoroughly, since the institution of Christ's immersionist assembly is greatly assailed today by friend and foe.

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/Church-Which-His-Body-Universal>.

2016 BBTS Spring Course Schedule

(Beginning Monday, January 25, 2016)

Monday 9 AM-12 Noon: The Book of Genesis

Monday 1-3 PM : Hebrew III

Wednesday 9-12 Noon: The Book of Revelation

Thursday: 6-9 PM: Greek I

See www.bbc-cromwell.org for more information

STOP! BEING WEARY.

ARTICLE



Pastor Cas Reeves

"But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing"

(2 Thessalonians 3:13).

We are encouraged not to be weary in well doing. The word "weary" does not mean tired, but rather it means: one who is weak or faint in heart. The use of the negative word "not" carries the idea of "stop" when used with the Greek imperative, and in this case the thought is to "stop being weary." As Christians then, if we have a faint hearted attitude, we are commanded to change our attitude and stop being weary in doing the things that are right to do. This might involve our church attending, our witnessing, our praying, and even our relationship with others.

Again, we are encouraged, *"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not"* (Galatians 6:9). This time it comes in the light of the law of sowing and reaping. God doesn't want us to be ignorant and warns, He is not mocked, and that a man will get what he sows. God has said, *"for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he reap."*

For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting" (Galatians 6:7-8). Let us sow to the Spirit.

All of us grow weary. It is the way of the flesh. But as in everything else in the Christian's life, our hope and our victory, over faint heartiness, is the Lord Jesus Christ. *"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me"* (Philippians 4:13). We are told that God through Christ 1) establishes us or makes steadfast our walk, 2) anoints us, 3) seals us, and 4) gives us the Holy Spirit to reside in our heart (2 Corinthians 1:21-22). That leaves us with one thing to do, and that is to wait upon the Lord. *"But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint"* (Isaiah 40:31).

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Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

II Timothy 2:15

Quotes From the Past: John Bunyan 1628-1688

Baptist Preacher and Author



John Bunyan

"Afflictions make the heart more deep, more experimental, more knowing and profound, and so, more able to hold, to contain, and beat more."

Grow in Grace for Women

2 Corinthians 4:4

"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

Reflection: Are you apprehensive in evangelizing the lost or are you actively sharing the glorious Gospel of Christ?

Remember that our battle is not against these that are lost, "but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12).

Have compassion for these that are without our Lord Jesus Christ and pray for them. Ask the Lord daily for opportunities and for boldness to approach the lost with His Light. Our responsibility is to share the Gospel and the Lord will take care of the results. If they reject, know that they are not rejecting you but they are rejecting Christ.

Challenge: Tracts are a great way to start a conversation. Keep some with you as you go about your day. If you struggle with sharing the Gospel start with one a week or one a day and build from there. Share your experiences with a sister in the Lord and encourage one another.

Pray for boldness, watch for the opportunities the Lord opens up, and Praise Him for delivering you out of the power of darkness!

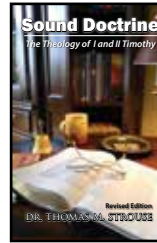
2 Peter 3:18

***"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever.
Amen"***

THE BOOK CORNER

The Book Corner

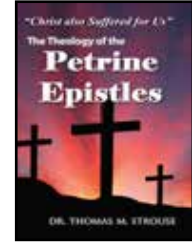
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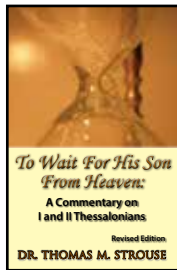
I & II Timothy
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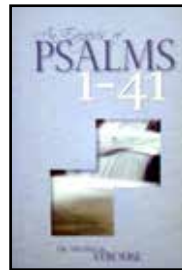
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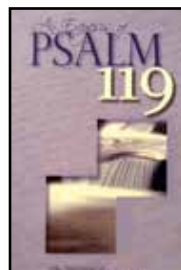
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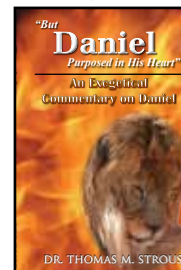
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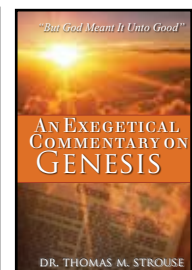
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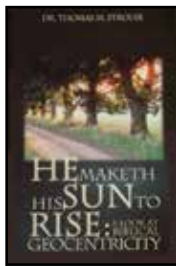
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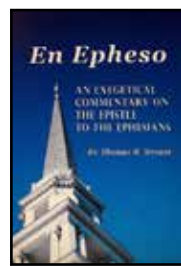
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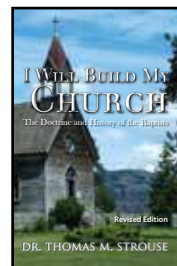
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I Will Build My Church
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A Primer of Baptist History
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The Lord God Hath Spoken
\$15.00

BBC Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 29, 2016

2016 BBTS Spring Semester Begins

March 19, 2016

Ladies Fellowship

March 7-11, 2016

BBTS Modules Endocott, NY

“The Book of Matthew”

“Hebrew Exegesis-The Book of Malachi”

April 15, 2016

BBTS Spring Lecture Series

May 21, 2016

Graduation Banquet

May 22, 2016

BBTS Commencement Service

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

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