



# BBC UPDATE

## Ireland Modules

Dr. Thomas Strouse



During the week of Jan. 6-10, 2014, thirteen seminarians enrolled in the Ireland modules of Baptist History II and the History of Christian Doctrine. The Lord blessed with several new students as well former seminarians. Baptist History II

dealt with Baptists from the time of the Protestant Reformation (1517) to modern times, including their spiritual, doctrinal, and missionary vicissitudes in Europe and America.

The History of Christian Doctrine dealt with the development of doctrinal expression through men's restatements of Scripture. For instance, Tertullian advanced the biblical expression "these three are one" (1 Jn. 5:7) with the term "Trinity." The study also showed the advancement of erroneous doctrines such as the "catholic (= universal) church." Plato influenced the apostolic fathers with the notion that reality was in the "universal mind or idea" (the teaching of catholicity) and not in the particular. Therefore, Ignatius coined the unbiblical expression "catholic church" which other patristics embraced including Augustine. When challenged by early Baptists (Donatists), Augustine said the true church was the elect. Later, when Augustinian monk Luther was ex-communicated from the visible catholic church (1521), he averred that he was nevertheless in the "invisible" catholic church. Calvin harked back to Augustinian doctrine and maintained that the true church was the invisible church of the elect, and therefore including at least Abraham. Later, the Plymouth Brethren (19th century) reacted to the extreme hierarchy and organization of the Anglican church with their extremes in the other direction, and rejected the biblical offices, organization, and ordinances that the Saviour gave NT assemblies (e.g., Mt. 28:19-20). J. N. Darby posited the false teachings that the true church was invisible and therefore entered into by Spirit baptism (i.e., I



Some of the students at the BBTS modules of Baptist History II and the History of Christian Doctrine held in Ireland last week.

Cor. 12:13 [sic]), since water baptism was invalid. Darby influenced Scofield who influenced L. S. Chafer, the founder of dispensationally-oriented Dallas Theological Seminary. DTS has had a heavy hand on the ecclesiology of nearly all graduates through the works of J. Walvoord and C. C. Ryrie. These dispensationalists, along with the Scofield Reference Bible, have influenced 20th and 21st century American fundamentalists and Baptists with the unbiblical teachings of the invisible universal church, and Spirit baptism as the means of entrance into "the true, mystical, spiritual body of Christ (sic)."

Being exposed to this faulty ecclesiology as advanced historically through the Roman Catholic Church and then through Reformed Catholics such as Luther and Calvin, the seminarians had a greater biblical appreciation for their relative small missionary churches, doing the work of God in the will of God based on the word of God!



## False Expectations for Church Attendance

**Dr. Thomas Strouse, Pastor**

In “protestantized” Christian America, most Christians, and especially Baptists, don’t have a biblical perspective of “church,” and therefore have unbiblical expectations for going to church. The New Testament church (ἐκκλησία) is the assembly of baptized believers called together in one place to worship the Lord Jesus Christ in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). The assembly is the body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:27) with the Lord Jesus as the Head of this organism (Colossians 1:18) and the pastor as the overseer of this organization (Acts 20:28).

It appears that many Baptist church members have been “protestantized” because their pastors have gone to Protestant Bible colleges and seminaries, or to Baptist schools influenced by Protestants, and because they also have read almost exclusively from Protestant works. This “protestant baggage” passes onto church members who think that they go to church services to observe the “clergy” worship God. The so-called “laity” do not really participate in worship because they are not officially trained. Hence, the mindset develops that asks “what do I get out of church?” Christians search around for churches as consumers trying to get the best deal. Their expectations are almost solely “what do you have to offer me?” or “how do I benefit from going to church?” Some of the carnal reasons for church attendance include the desire to have a social outlet, or to improve job contacts, or for “spiritual” prestige (especially if the church is large and popular). When these and other carnal reasons are thwarted for some reason, Christians quite often either cease from church attendance or seek other options (such as cults) to fulfill their unbiblical expectations.

### The Assembly and Assembly Attendance

The Bible, nevertheless, gives teaching concerning the nature of church and biblical reasons for attendance. As stated previously, the church is the assembly of baptized believers organized around the covenanted allegiance to carry out the Great Commission, practicing NT ordinances (baptism and the Lord’s Supper) and operating with biblical officers (pastor and deacons). The Lord Jesus Christ is both the Foundation (Ephesians 2:20) and Head of His

assemblies (Ephesians 4:15) and meets in the midst of them (Matthew 18:20; Revelation 1:13) with His special ecclesiological presence and power (Matthew 28:20). The following are scriptural reasons for attendance in a NT church:

- 1. It is a divine requirement which must not be forsaken:** *“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching”* (Hebrews 10:25).
- 2. The NT assembly is the divine institution for truth:** *“But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth”* (I Timothy 3:15).
- 3. The local church is the exclusive institution for sanctification through the Word of God:** *“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth”* (John 17:17).
- 4. The primary reason for attendance is to learn doctrine; fellowship, the Lord’s Supper and prayers are secondary, based on sound doctrine:** *“And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers”* (Acts 2:42).
- 5. The gathering of the assembly is the only practical means by which the believer can meet corporately with the Lord and worship Him in the ordinances:** *“When ye come together therefore into one place...For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord’s death till he come”* (I Corinthians 11:20, 26), *“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls”* (Acts 2:41), and *“As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God”* (I Peter 4:10).
- 6. The local church is the only institution which has divinely-given men for her benefit:** *“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers”* (Ephesians 4:11).
- 7. The gathered assembly is the only place where saints can receive divinely authorized feeding and spiritual care:** *“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the*

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Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood" (Acts 20:28).

8. The NT assembly is the only means by which one can exercise financial stewardship in this dispensation: "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come" (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).

**Conclusion**

The only reason for a Baptist church member to switch to another church in the same geographical area is because of unbiblical doctrine or practice in the former ("For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears" [II Timothy 4:3]).

# ARTICLE

There is no reason for a professed believer who is a member of a NT church to cease attendance! Reasons such as "personality conflicts" or "social/cultural idiosyncrasies" have been dealt with at the cross, and the Lord gives sufficient grace and love to deal with these so-called excuses: "For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us" (Ephesians 2:14) and "And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins" (I Peter 4:8). Baptists should expect to "grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (II Peter 3:18) in their respective assembly and throw off false expectations for church attendance!

## 2014 BBTS Spring Semester Class Schedule

**Mondays**

<i>Greek I</i>	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
<i>Greek II</i>	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
<i>Greek Proficiency</i>	6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
<i>Hebrew VIII</i>	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

**Wednesdays**

<i>1 &amp; 2 Peter</i>	8:00 AM - 11:00 AM
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**Thursdays**

<i>History of Christian Doctrine</i>	6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
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**Fridays**

<i>New Testament Introduction</i>	9:00 AM - Noon
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## BBTS Spring Schedule

January 20-24, 2014

BBTS Module - Cromwell, CT  
"Bibliology I"

January 27, 2014

BBTS Fall Semester Begins

March 10-14, 2014

HBTS Modules - Endicott, NY  
"I and II Peter" (TMS)  
"Hebrew" (JWS)

April 18, 2014

BBTS Spring Lecture Series  
"The Book of Revelation"

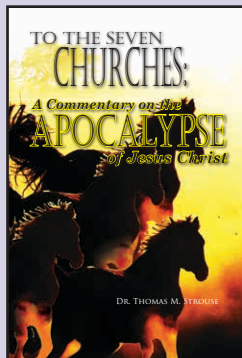
BBTS Graduation

May 18, 2014, 1:30 PM

See [www.bbc-cromwell.org](http://www.bbc-cromwell.org)  
for more information

## New Revelation Commentary Now Available

Dr. Thomas M. Strouse has completed his latest book: *Unto the Seven Churches: A Commentary on the Apocalypse of Jesus Christ* (1022 pages). The book may be purchased for \$30.00.





# DEVOTIONAL CORNER

## Exasperate

*"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord"*

**Ephesians 6:4**

Raising children is not the easiest job in the world. But it is one of the **most** rewarding if it is done properly. To raise children right, it is imperative that we do it with God's counsel. Regarding this, the LORD gives us a promise.



Pastor Cas Reeves

*"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it"*

(Proverbs 22:5). Put another

way, we need to set proper biblical habits in our children's lives. This is done by precept and practice. Clarifying this thought is what God commanded Israelite fathers regard the words of God. *"And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up"* (Deut.6:7).

As fathers specifically, parents in general, not only are we to teach by precept, but also in

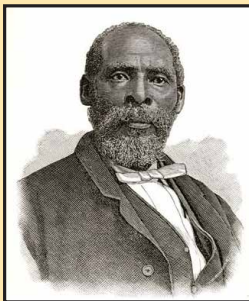
practice. That is by our behavior. Again, look at Deuteronomy 6: at what God expected in their behavior regarding His statutes, judgments and commands. Note: *"that ye might do them"* (v.1); *"That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments"* (v.2); *"Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it"* (v.3). We should get the picture, behave the way God wants us to.

We are warned in our text, of a common mistake in practice that parents make, and especially fathers to whom it is directed. *"Fathers, provoke not your children to wrath."* The word, "provoke" means "to exasperate." The idea is that as fathers, we are not to exasperate our child to the point of discouragement or to have a frame of mind in which he wants to give up. The verb form implies the strongest of all admonitions to fathers. As parents we are to study our children, to observe not only their behavior but also their emotional make up. In this we need to spend time with our children and seek much help and wisdom from above. Like Solomon, let us ask for understanding (1 Kings 3:9). And if we train our children right, we have God's promise, *"and when he is old, he will not depart from it."* -CAR

## Quotes From the Past:

**John Jasper, 1812-1901**

**An Eminent Baptist Preacher of America**



John Jasper

*"But I kin read de Bible and git de things whar lay on de top uv de soil. Out 'n de Bible I knows nuthin' extry 'bout de sun. I sees 'is courses as he rides up dar so gran' an' mighty in de sky, but dar is heaps 'bout dat flamin' orb dat is too much fer me. I know dat de sun shines powerfly an' po's down its light in floods, an' yet dat is nuthin' compared wid de light dat flashes in my min' frum de pages of Gord's book."*

## LADIES MEETING

The Fourth Annual BBC

# Ladies' Fellowship & Tea

Saturday,  
March 8, 2014

*Let your light so shine before men,  
that they may see your good works,  
and glorify your Father which is in  
heaven. Matthew 5:16*

Ladies Meeting

5

Announcement



MRS. PATTY HERR,  
GUEST SPEAKER

*You are invited to join the Ladies of Bible Baptist Church as they host Fourth Annual Ladies' Fellowship & Tea from 10 AM to 1 PM.*

*Mrs. Patty Herr, wife of Pastor Daniel Herr (Chester Baptist Church, Chester, MA) will share her testimony. The fellowship will include congregational singing, special music, testimonies, and a brunch.*

*Please RSVP with the number of Ladies attending by March 1 to [drtms\\_bbts@juno.com](mailto:drtms_bbts@juno.com)*



**BIBLE**  
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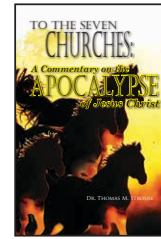
**Bible Baptist Church**  
40 Country Squire Road  
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860-613-2096  
[www.bbc-cromwell.org](http://www.bbc-cromwell.org)



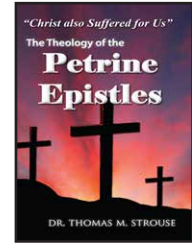
# THE BOOK CORNER

## The Book Corner

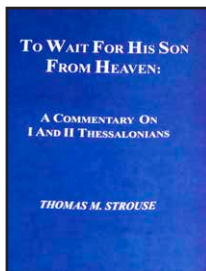
These Books may be purchased through **Bible Baptist Church**:  
40 Country Squire Rd.  
Cromwell, CT 06416  
860-229-5387



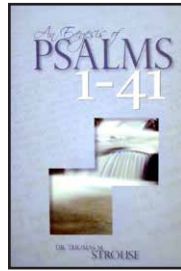
Revelation  
\$30.00



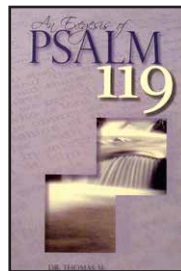
Peter  
\$20.00



I & II Thessalonians  
\$10.00



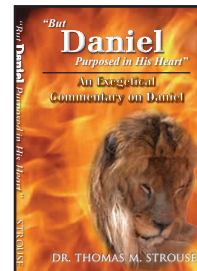
Psalms 1 - 41  
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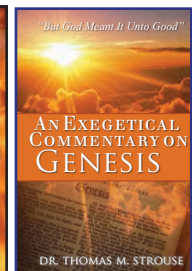
Psalm 119  
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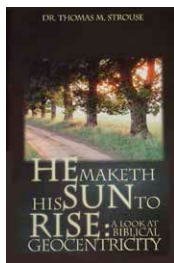
Spiritual Gifts  
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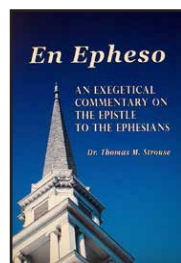
Daniel  
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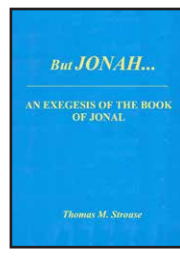
Genesis  
\$20



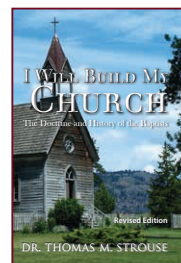
Geocentricity  
\$10.00



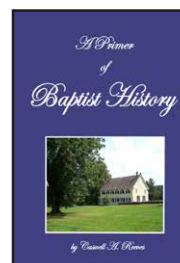
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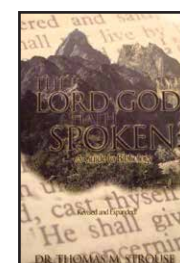
Jonah  
\$10.00



I Will Build My Church  
\$15.00



A Primer of Baptist History  
\$20.00



The Lord God Hath Spoken  
\$15.00

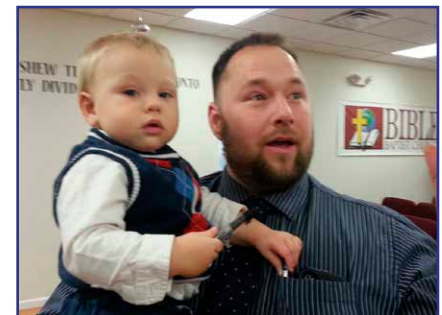
## BBC Fun!



Pastor and grandson



Mr. Pierpont with baby Lydia



Mr. Rossignol and Son

If you have any news for the next issue of the BBC Update, please send to the Editor, Cas Reeves, at either

bbts@stny.rr.com  
hbc5923@stny.rr.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