



BBC UPDATE

Seventy Years Dr. Thomas Strouse



Dr. Thomas Strouse

The only Psalm that Moses wrote included the profound statement on the prospects of a lifetime, saying, *"The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away"* (Ps. 90:10). Although he lived to be one hundred and twenty years old, Moses revealed

the Lord's temporal limit for an expected lifetime. Some may live another decade or so, but the quality of duration still reflects the curse upon man since Adam. In summation, Moses reminded that man's lifetime may be likened to a bird which quickly flies away.

As I reflect upon my seventieth birthday, I can vouch for the brevity of life yet still desire an additional ten years or more. However, soon I will personally face *"the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God"* (I Tim. 1:17) as my Creator and Judge. Contemplation of this reality is certainly sobering for any mortal, and if it were not for the fact that He is also my Saviour, there would be no hope. The stewardship of this temporal life is to prepare one for eternity, and this stewardship requires repentance of sin and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as the only Saviour. I have fulfilled this stewardship and have biblical confidence that whenever my life is *"soon cut off,"* I will be received into the everlasting arms of my Saviour.

The Lord has blessed me with a wonderful wife and fourteen great children, a growing number of grandchildren, and the privilege to walk with Him in Christian service for forty-six years. I have had the privilege to use my spiritual gift of teaching to inculcate the Word of God in hundreds of the Lord's servants throughout the world. For this I am grateful to the LORD God. I have come to be able to say with others, *"But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city"* (Heb. 11:16).



The members of BBC surprised Pastor Strouse with an ice cream cake celebration of his 70th birthday!

Excerpt from Spring Lecture Series

"Ye shall be as gods": The Doctrine and History of Gnosticism

Dr. Thomas M. Strouse
Introduction

The Scripture revealed that the Serpent couched his lies to the original couple (Gen. 3:5) in the verb *knowing*" (**יָדָע**),¹ lending justification to designate his theology "Gnostic" with the Greek equivalent verb **γινώσκω**.² Because of the 1945 discovery of the Nag Hammadi Gnostic texts, modern Bible critics have been reluctant to refer to Gnosticism as a pre-first century phenomenon.³

Continued on Page 2

1 This is the etymon for the Greek verb **εἰδῶ**, the obsolete form for the perfect verb **οἶδα** (used as a present tense, first person, singular verb).

2 This verb occurs 223x in the New Testament (NT) and receives the translation "know" (196x), "perceive" (9x), and "understand" (8x). The cognate Greek noun **γνώσις** occurs 29x while the intensified compound noun **ἐπίγνωσις** occurs 20x.

3 Marvin Meyer, ed., *The Nag Hammadi Scriptures: The Revised and Updated Translation of Sacred Gnostic Texts* (NY: HarperOne, 2009), 864 pp. Cf. also Kurt Rudolph, *Gnosis: The Nature and History of Gnosticism* (NY: HarperOne, 1987), 432 pp.

LECTURE SERIES EXCERPT

Continued from Page 1

However, this essay will employ the terms “Gnostic” and “Gnosticism” and refer to the original deceptive knowledge movement. The Gnostic texts such as the *Gospel of Thomas* and the *Apocalypse of Adam* are merely the manifestations of the Devil’s deceptive doctrines *ab origine*. Gnosticism, then, has its roots back to the Garden of Eden, and has manifested fully blossomed in the recent discoveries of Gnostic literature.

Gnosticism gives an alternative view to God, creation, man, and salvation, contradicting the biblical worldview at every point. Essentially, Gnosticism teaches that the divine spirit (i.e., god) is transcendent, emanating his/its essence as the substance of the material world (i.e., pantheism) while distancing himself/itself from material cosmos and creature embodiment. The emanation of his fulness (*pleroma*, πλήρωμα) mediates

through Aeons or intermediate deific beings who exist in the πλήρωμα to help the spark of divinity embodied in flesh to acquire release and achieve spirit divinity. The dual nature of man’s immaterial with material was the result of the false creator deity (demiurge, δημιουργός)⁴ who entrapped the divine soul/mind in flesh to keep man ignorant of his true divine nature and spiritual destiny. The low-level false creator deity and his archons desire to keep men enslaved to their authority by keeping them attached to the material cosmos in ignorance. While physical death releases the divine spirit from embodiment, it will be re-embodied (i.e., reincarnation) if sufficient advancement in the πλήρωμα has not been accomplished (this cycle is potentially perpetual). Salvation is exclusively spiritual since the material creation, including fleshly embodiment, is absolutely and eternally evil.

⁴ Cf. Heb. 11:10 for this *hapax legomena*.

Bible Baptist Theological Seminary presents:

The Sixth Annual Spring Lecture Series

THE LORD'S ASSEMBLY AND OPPOSITIONS TO SCIENCE FALSELY SO CALLED

**Friday,
April 10, 2015**
8:30 AM to 2:30 PM

**Crowne Plaza Hotel
100 Berlin Road
Cromwell, CT 06416**

*Lunch will be provided with free-will offering.
*A book table will be available with relevant material.

RSVP by April 6, 2015 with total number in your party to:



Dr. Thomas M. Strouse
40 Country Squire Rd.
Cromwell, CT 06416
860-229-5387

www.bbc-cromwell.org

Drmts_bbts@juno.com

Preaching Schedule:

8:30 - 9:45 AM

Exposing the Lies of the Garden: Energy Manipulation, Martial Arts & Oriental Medicine - Session 1

Prof. Jeff Skorupski



Prof. Jeff Skorupski

10:00 - 11:30 AM

The Lord's Assembly and Oppositions to Science Falsely So Called

Dr. Thomas Strouse



Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

11:30 - 1:00 PM Lunch

1:00 - 2:30 PM

Exposing the Lies of the Garden: Energy Manipulation, Martial Arts & Oriental Medicine - Session 2

Prof. Jeff Skorupski

BBC Homeschool Field Trip

On Monday March 16th, 11 homeschoolers, along with their teachers, took a field trip to Sweet Wind Farm in East Hartland, CT, to learn about the maple sugaring process. Mr. and Mrs. Arlow Case, owners of the sugaring shack, taught and showed the process of tapping Maple trees, collecting the sap, and changing the sap into syrup, sugar, jelly, cream, and candy. The children enjoyed watching the evaporation machine boil away the water from the sap and fill the room with sweet smelling steam. The best part, of course, was tasting the syrup and sampling some maple sugar candy!

Due to the very cold month of February, the maple syrup season got to a very late start this year, and looks to be a very short season, only a few weeks. The Cases, who also homeschool, are still busy tapping trees trying to get the most out of the season.

FIELD TRIP



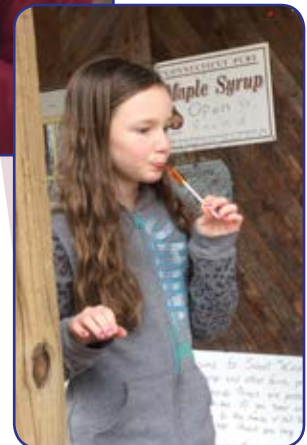
The BBC Homeschoolers learned about the maple sugaring process at a farm in East Hartland, CT



The highlight of the trip was tasting the maple sugar candy!!

Commissioning Service

On April 5, 2015, BBC will commission Mr. Mark Schabert to plant a church in the Hartford, CT area. Pray for him and his family.



DEVOTIONAL CORNER

Good Investment

Devotional Corner

4

Good Investment



Pastor Cas Reeves

God's Word encourages investment and with that encouragement the promise of return. The Lord encourages good investing. He shared this principle in the gospels: "He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord" (Matt.25:22-23). As well, He expects even the least capable person to invest: "Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, ...I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury" (Matt.25:24-27). The reward is obvious, the better the investment stewardship the greater

the blessing. Finally, in Ecclesiastes 11:1-5, there are these thoughts of application:

- 1) Your investment should be with money saved. "planting seed" (v.1)
- 2) Your investment should be diversified (defensive strategy). (v.2)
- 3) Your investment should be sold before it gets to a falling level. (v.3a) [If an investment is too over priced, it will come down like the rain.]
- 4) Your sure gain or loss is what you have after you sell. (v.3b)
- 5) Your understanding of investment facts is more important than investment anticipation. (v.4)
- 6) Your trust should not be in your investment but in your God. (attitude). (v.5)

How much personal time and talent do you have invested in the Lord's work? "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal" (Mt 6:19-20). -CAR

Quotes From the Past:

George Washington

1732-1799

First President of the USA



George Washington

"We should not look back unless it is to derive useful lessons from past errors, and for the purpose of profiting by dearly bought experience."

BBC Spring Calendar

Commissioning Service for
Mark Schabert
April 5, 2015

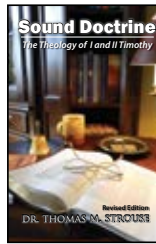
Homeschooler SAT Testing
April 28 & 30, 2015

BBTS Graduation
May 17, 2015

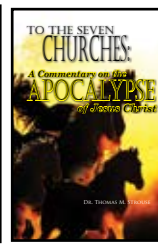
THE BOOK CORNER

The Book Corner

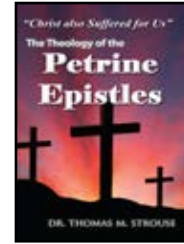
These Books may be purchased through **Bible Baptist Church**:
40 Country Squire Rd.
Cromwell, CT 06416
860-229-5387



I & II Timothy \$20.00



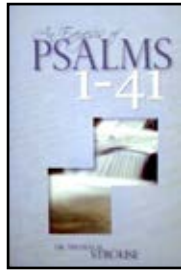
Revelation \$30.00



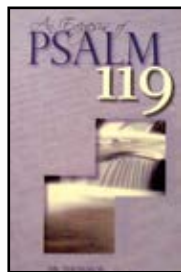
Peter \$20.00



I & II Thessalonians \$20.00



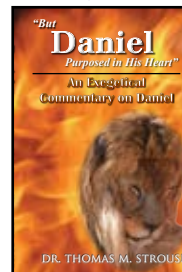
Psalms 1 - 41 \$20.00



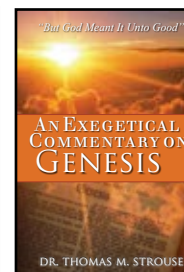
Psalms 119 \$20.00



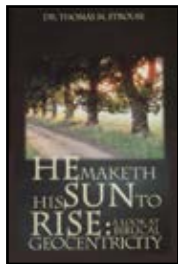
Spiritual Gifts \$8.00



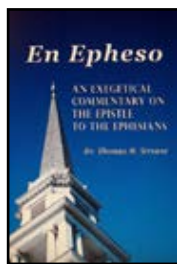
Daniel \$20.00



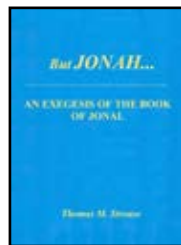
Genesis \$20



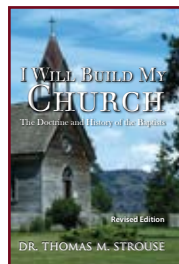
Geocentricity \$10.00



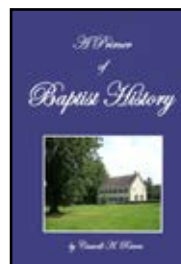
En Epheso \$20.00



Jonah \$10.00



I Will Build My Church \$15.00



A Primer of Baptist History \$20.00



The Lord God Hath Spoken \$15.00

BBC Fun!



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