



BBC UPDATE

BBS Spring Lecture Series

Dr. Thomas M. Strouse



Dr. Thomas Strouse

On Friday, April 14, 2017, Bible Baptist Church hosted the eighth annual Bible Baptist Theological Seminary Lectures Series with host pastor Dr. Thomas M. Strouse speaking on "Understanding of the Times" (1 Chr. 12:32) and Dr. Cas Reeves speaking on "Christian Financial Stewardship in a Trumpian Era." The Lord blessed with about 65 people in attendance from 11 churches including 7 pastors. The fellowship was excellent, especially during the lunch break as many of the members of different sister churches enjoyed testimonies about what the Lord is doing in their lives. The lecture syllabi are available

on our website: www.bbc-cromwell.org



Pastors from several churches and various states attended.

Dr. Cas Reeves taught on "Understanding of the Times... Economically"



Dr. Tom Strouse taught on 1 Chronicles 12:32 "Understanding of the Times"



The book table offered books available for purchase. (See page 8)



Several men, women and children attended the lecture series.



MR. BILL VASSAR PASSING

Mr. Bill Vassar Passing



On Saturday, April 8, 2017, Mr. Bill Vassar, member of Bible Baptist Church since 2009, passed into the New Jerusalem to be with his precious Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, and with his beloved wife, recently-deceased Mrs. Dorothy Vassar. The funeral service will be held on April 29, 2017.

FELLOWSHIP PHOTOS

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Fellowship



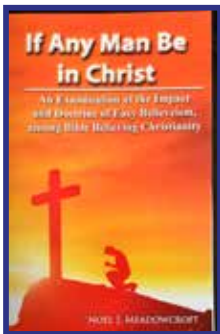
Folks took time during Lecture Series to enjoy lunch and fellowship.

PROPOSAL AND ENGAGEMENT

After the Wednesday night service, April 12, 2017, Mr. Kyle Thompson proposed with a sentimental statement of love and commitment and on bended knee to Miss Jo-Jo Perez, who accepted the wedding proposal. Both are members of Bible Baptist Church and are planning on a fall wedding.



Pastor & Mrs. Strouse with son-in-law Oscar Campos & daughter Keren Campos, along with Ryan, Christy, Jack & Landon Strouse



NEW BOOK!

The recent book, *If Any Man Be In Christ: An Examination and the Impact of the Doctrine of Superficial Easy Believe-ism among Bible Believing Christianity*, by Dr. Noel Meadowcroft, has put forth the biblical case for the teaching of the need for repentance in conversion, as well as for elucidating the biblical perspective of so-called "Lordship Salvation." Dr. Meadowcroft has been a student of the trends and movements in conservative Christianity for many decades, observing the faulty doctrine of easy believe-ism and its fruitless "conversions." Because of his heartbreak over the empty lives of many "unrepentant Christians" and because of his passion for truth, he has written *If Any Man Be In Christ*. It is my privilege to recommend this book as a defense of biblical soteriology, readable for both the babe in Christ as well the seasoned saint of the Lord. (\$8.00 each).

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

“THE BINDING AND LOOSING OF SATAN”

ARTICLE

the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven” (Mt. 16:19). The Lord Jesus expanded on this promise now including the apostles and with respect to church membership and discipline. Again, Scripture stated, saying, “Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican. Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” (Mt. 18:15-18).⁷ Those that meet the requirements for membership (repentance, faith, baptism, confessed sin) are bound in the assembly, and those that fail to meet the requirements for membership (unrepentant over public sin) are loosed from the assembly.⁸ This has nothing to do with binding and loosing Satan but everything to do with Peter and the apostles’ winning sinners to the KOH and binding them to church membership, but also excising the unrepentant from church membership. For instance, Peter used the keys of the KOH to bind the three thousand on Pentecost to salvation and church membership (Acts 2:37-39) as well as Cornelius and his household (Acts 10:44-48; 11:13-18). He also loosed the liars Ananias and Sapphira and the unregenerate and unrepentant Simon the sorcerer from churches (Acts 5:1-10; 8:18-24).

Those who insist on formula prayers such as “In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I bind this spirit of _____. I want nothing to do with it,” have

⁷ The employment of the periphrastic construction of the future verb with the perfect participle connotes the completed aspect in the future (shall be having been bound/loosed). Heaven works in concert with the decisions of the assembly on earth.

⁸ Paul used the bound/loosed verbs referring to the marital relationship, saying, “Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife” (I Cor. 7:27). This helps understand the bound/loosed relationship to the assembly in the sense of united or separated (“to deliver” [I Cor. 5:5], “Purge out” [I Cor. 5:7], and “put away” [I Cor. 5:13]).



Dr. Thomas Strouse

“The Binding and Loosing of Satan” and the New Testament

Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

Continuation from 4/1/17

The Binding and Loosing of Satan

The strange fire known as “the binding and loosing of Satan” is perpetuated by those who hold that some or all of the miracles of the Apostolic Age continue forward. The specific argument for this heresy is the exegetical effort to superimpose the practice of the Lord “binding the strong man” (Mt. 12:29; Mk. 3:27; and Lk. 11:21; see also Lk. 13:11-17) upon the binding and loosing ministry of Peter and the apostles (Mt. 16:19; 18:15-18). No doubt the “strong man” is a reference to Satan (Beelzebub), as Matthew recorded, saying, “And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? therefore they shall be your judges. But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you. Or else how can one enter into a strong man’s house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house” (Mt. 12:27-29). The Lord taught that He was superior to Satan and had bound him so that the Lord could spoil Satan’s goods by casting out his demons.⁶ Nothing is said of the Lord loosing Satan.

Since the verbs “bind” (*deo*) and “loose” (*luo*) do occur in the NT some 44x and 43x, respectively, it is significant to realize that they both refer to either literal or figurative activities, depending on context. The context of the Lord’s authority to Peter “to bind and to loose” referred to him as the head apostle of the *ekklesia* to bind and loose relative to the Kingdom of Heaven (KOH). The Scripture stated, saying, “And I will give unto thee

⁶ “And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power” (Col. 2:10).

“THE BINDING AND LOOSING OF SATAN”

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no biblical precedent. It is scripturally dangerous to engage in the supernatural realm outside of the boundaries of biblical revelation. Both James and Peter gave the simple but scriptural approach to the Devil, demons, and the realm of darkness, saying, *“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you”* (Jam. 4:7) and *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world”* (I Pet. 5:8-9). James and Peter neither practiced nor taught “the binding of Satan.”

Conclusion

The Apostolic Age of signs and wonders came and passed for Jehovah’s people, as did the two previous eras, under Moses and the prophets Elijah and Elisha. The signs and wonders of the Apostolic Age were given to confirm the NT Canonical books, and when the apostles and disciples finished the NT Canon and subsequently died, the signs and wonders ceased because the Lord had fulfilled their purpose. Although the Lord Jesus Christ bound Satan, He did not authorize the binding and loosing of the Devil and demons through Peter and the disciples. Instead, he gave the leaders and disciples of the assemblies the privilege to bind and loose believers with regard to church membership and church discipline. These early leaders of the Apostolic Age recognized that their responsibility was to resist the Devil and allow the Lord to rebuke Satan. Paul affirmed that deliverance from Satan was accomplished through teaching the word of God, saying, *“And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will”* (II Tim. 2:24-26). The ‘Deliverance Ministry’ that church members have today requires the reality of being filled with

the Spirit (Eph. 5:18) and of using the sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17) to resist the Devil (Mt. 4:4 ff.). Charismatics, Pentecostals, and Baptists who employ extra-biblical spiritual warfare techniques usurp God’s authority and risk jeopardous consequences. The practice of so-called “binding and loosing of Satan” is unbiblical and therefore spiritually dangerous, and must be purposefully avoided and publicly repudiated.

BBTS/BBC SPRING SCHEDULE

May. 21, 2017

“ BBTS Commencement “

May. 29-June 2, 2017

Ireland

“ Matthew and Creation and the Flood “



BBC Ladies' Choir .



Dr. Caswell A. Reeves

Watch

“And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch” (Mark 13:34).

This word “watch” means: to be vigilant, to keep awake, to stay alert. In the Greek, its usage in Mark 13:34 is considered a command or strong exhortation to be watchful. Thus, all Christians are strongly exhorted, yes even commanded to be watchful/vigilant in their Christian life.

When referring to Christian behavior in light of the devil, this same Greek word is used by Peter when he says, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8). Living the Christian life is not easy with all of its temptations, especially when the devil is lurking in your way to scuttle your testimony for Christ. Believer be watchful of the devil.

In the garden before his betrayal, Jesus said to his disciples, “tarry ye here, and watch with me” (Matthew 26:38). From this event, Christians learn of the weakness of the flesh in prayer. Jesus

was asking them to stay awake with him. But the Lord countered their failure by command, encouragement and instruction: “What, could ye not watch one hour with me? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak” (Matthew 26:40-41). The Christian is commanded to “continue in prayer” and to continually “watch in the same with thanksgiving” (Colossians 4:2). Believer be watchful in prayer.

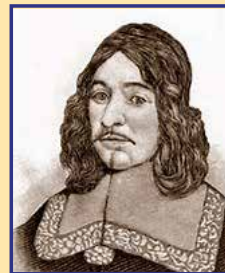
True Christians know the Lord is coming. They don’t know when he is coming, but they know, he is definitely coming. The Lord likened his coming to a thief breaking into a house and calls upon Christians to be alert, living their lives in light of his coming. “Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such a hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh” (Matthew 24:42-44). Believer be watching for the coming of the Lord. -CAR

Quotes From the Past:

William Kiffin

Baptist Preacher in England

1616-1701



William Kiffin

“It were a great shame then, for any Englishman, that pretends to Christianity, not to give God his due.”

Watch and Be Sober

1 Thessalonians 5:2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

1 Thessalonians 5:6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

*Sober (Greek): to be sober, to be calm and collected in spirit (BLB)

*Watch (Greek): to take heed lest through remission and indolence some destructive calamity suddenly overtake one (BLB)

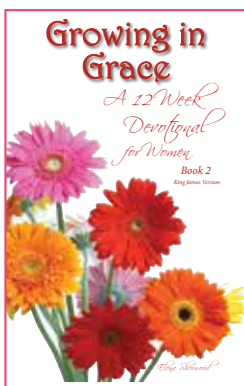
Reflection: These verses are speaking of the coming tribulation time. As followers of Christ, we should be spiritually alert and aware to what is going on around us. As you read through 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 what is the contrast to be made between those who are in spiritual darkness and those who are children of the light.

Let's say there are two people who are reading a book, one skips ahead to read the ending of the story before she finishes the book. The other person reads through and does not know the ending. How does knowing the end of the story affect one reading as the plot thickens in the middle of the book?

The Lord Jesus Christ has given His followers His Word which tells us the beginning, the middle, and the end of His plans for mankind. Those who are sober, awake, and receiving right teaching know the ending, therefore we can see these things unravel and can identify with peace and calm that the Lord is, in fact, fulfilling His plan.

Challenge: Are you awake, watching, and sober? Are you at peace or in turmoil? How are you preparing for the Lord's return?

"Growing in Grace: A 12 Week Devotional for Women" Book 2



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 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.

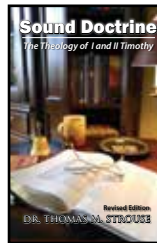
Psalm 119:2 "Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart."

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

THE BOOK CORNER

The Book Corner

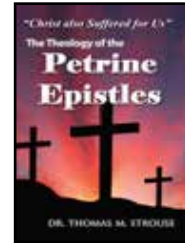
These Books may be purchased through **Bible Baptist Church**:
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I & II Timothy \$20.00



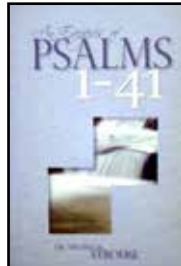
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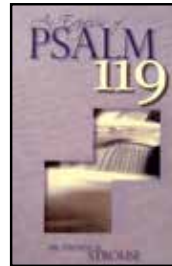
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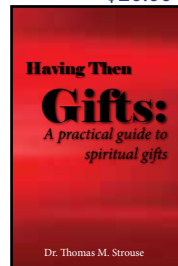
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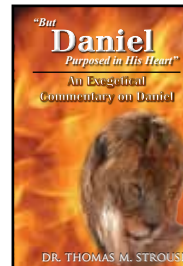
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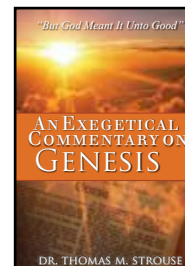
Psalm 119 \$20.00



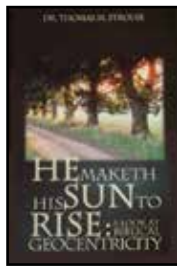
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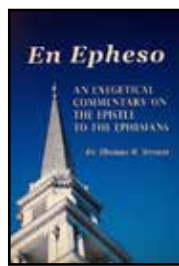
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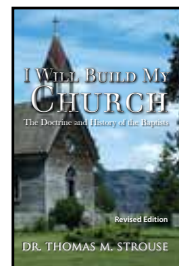
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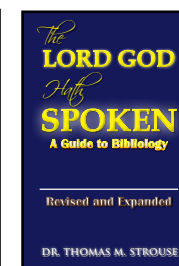
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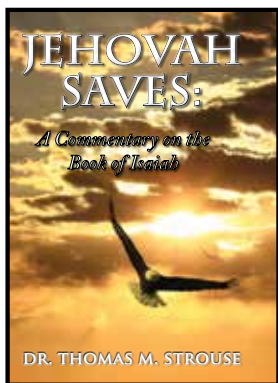
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NEW BOOK: JEHOVAH SAVES: A COMMENTARY ON THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

The new book by Dr. Thomas M. Strouse entitled *Jehovah Saves: A Commentary on the Book of Isaiah* is available for purchase. The book is an effort to exegete the contents of all sixty-six chapters of Isaiah, resulting in 508 pages of commentary with 746 footnotes chocked full of word studies, grammatical explanations, and theological teachings. It reflects over forty years of study, research, and reflection from the author. Available now! \$30.00

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

drms_bbts@juno.com



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