



BBC UPDATE

Spring Lecture Series

Dr. Thomas Strouse



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The Lord blessed the sixth annual BBTB Lecture Series on April 10, 2015 at Crowne Plaza in Cromwell, CT. At least nine sister churches attended the Lecture Series which focused on the theme “The Lord’s Assembly and Oppositions to Science Falsely So Called.” Satan’s Lies of the Garden (deathlessness and deification of man) have been his theological agenda for six thousand years, and this destructive agenda is still the single threat to the Lord’s work in His assemblies (I Tim. 3:15-16). Dr. Thomas Strouse gave the overview doctrine and history of the Lies of the Garden and Professor Jeff Skorupski gave the specifics as manifested in energy manipulation and martial arts. The question and answer time was significant and revealing as many recognized the insidious schemes of Satan which threaten the Lord’s assemblies. The recording and materials of the Lecture Series are available on the Bible Baptist Church web site: www.bbc-cromwell.org



Some of the pastors and missionaries in attendance at the Spring Lecture Series



“The Lord’s Assembly and Oppositions of Science Falsely So Called”

The Doctrinal Responsibility of the Lord’s Assembly

Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

The Apostle Paul gave his purpose for writing I Timothy, stating, *“These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: 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 Tim. 3:14-15). This behaviour centered on the defense of the central doctrine of Scripture—*“the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh”* (I Tim. 3:16). There is no question but that this mystery is great; what is the relationship of the Creator with His Creation? The incarnation doctrine demands the virgin birth, perfect life, death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. If the biblical teaching of the Person and Work of the Lord Jesus Christ is diminished, denounced, denied, or destroyed at all, then no other doctrine matters. The Apostle initially charged Timothy with resisting the teaching of any other doctrine (I Tim. 1:4), and concluded the *Epistle* saying, *“O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called”* (I Tim. 6:20). The

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word “*science*” is γνώσεως (*gnoseos*) and refers to the false Garden Gnosticism. Scripture indicates that there is a true γνώσεως or knowledge that is divine (Rom. 11:33; 15:14; I Cor. 12:8; II Cor. 2:14; 4:6; 10:5; Eph. 3:19; Phil. 3:8; and Col. 2:3). Satan has perverted true knowledge and used the word γνώσεως for his purposes. Peter challenged believers, saying, “*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*” (II Pet. 3:18). The Lord’s assembly, then, has this sole divine responsibility of resisting and rejecting any form of Garden γνώσεως, in doctrine or practice, from her ministry. It behooves church members to recognize and reject Satan’s ancient lies which promote his “spiritual” alternative to the Judeo-Christian Scriptures, and eventually damns all devotees with false γνώσεως.

The Doctrine and History of Gnosticism

Shortly after the sixth day of Creation (cf. I Tim. 3:7), Satan deceived the perfect couple through the instrumentality of the serpent, giving his alternative and anti-Christian world view. He posited two subtle and effective lies which permeate all false religious systems up and through the Tribulation. “*And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die*” (Gen. 3:4). First, Satan denied God’s prediction and offered the opposite teaching—no death. **Deathlessness** to man was the promise. Second, the Scripture revealed, saying, “*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*” (Gen. 3:5). Couched in the term knowing (עָדָה, γινώσκω),¹ Satan claimed deification for Adam and Eve. The promise to man was **deification**. Corollaries to this include no salvation for the body or flesh—flesh is evil.² Furthermore, the resurrection of the body is **denied**. Satan’s alternative theological system was

¹ The term Gnosticism comes from γινώσκω and refers to religious or special knowledge. Satanic Gnosticism has been around since the Garden, but many want to use the term as a technical expression for the AD second century fully-blossomed Gnosticism.

² Lucifer, as a created spirit being, apparently was not interested in salvation of the material body (Isa. 14:12-14; Ezk. 28:12-17).

not Theism, but Pantheistic (known also as “catholicity”) in scope, Gnostic in nature, and Antichristian in conflict. Therefore, it is predicted that his religions, cults, and philosophies would be re-packaged historically and religiously with an emphasis on deification of all, reincarnation of man, denigration of the material world, works salvation in this life, and some sort of purging advancement after physical death. The word “God” would refer exclusively to the non-material realm as “abstract existence,” “divine thought,” “ideas,” “energy,” “Over-soul,” “mind,” “the endless all,” “the ideal,” etc.

All ancient and modern religions, cults, and pagan philosophies teach more or less obliquely the following satanic tenets. 1) Deity is housed in the flesh for some reason (polytheism leads to pantheism). 2) Deity needs to escape the flesh of man through purging of “sin” and “evil” in this life, and advance in the πλήρωμα to spirituality through reincarnation. 3) “True” reality is in the spiritual universal mind, soul or intellect. 4) The fullness (πλήρωμα) of the real existence of deity, or the archetypal ideal existing in the invisible heavens, has emanations down to the imperfect phenomenal manifestations of that ideal, locked in the material world, through aeons, angels, or other intermediaries, who help the spark of divinity housed in evil flesh back to Godhood through the πλήρωμα. 5) Pseudo-Christian religions teach that Jesus Christ is spiritual but not in the flesh (Docetism), or that Jesus is a mere man in physical body but not the divine Christ (Adoptionism). 6) Since man is good (= god), man advances in this life and the afterlife and avoids any permanent judgment such as hell (hell is an illusion, it does not exist, or man is annihilated).

These lies of the Garden and their corollaries did indeed seduce the original perfect couple, have permeated all major religions, cults, and philosophies through world history, and will unite all religions during the Tribulation in the Ecumenical Church of “the great whore” (Rev. 17:1 ff.). Satan’s movement of “doctrines of devils” (I Tim. 4:1) is unchanging although occasionally repackaged, and it is the colossal “lie” of the ages (Rom. 1:25; II Thess. 2:11), deceiving and damning multitudes. Here is a sample listing of the Gnostic-laced religions of the world: Babylonianism, Egyptian Religion, Canaanite Religion, Hinduism, Mormon Cult, Jehovah Witness Cult, Armstrongism Cult, Christian Science Cult, Neo-Paganism, and Scientology.

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LECTURE SERIES



*Brother Skorupski spoke on
Exposing the Lies of the Garden:
Energy Manipulation, Martial Arts &
Oriental Medicine -*



*As usual, the lunch was delicious and
fellowship sweet!*



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Conclusion

What has worked so effectively for Satan for the last six thousand years will continue as his agenda to the end. His alternative world view appealed to the perfect couple and led to their sin. Couched in terms of knowledge, he offered them the opposing and anti-Christian doctrines of deathlessness and deification. The deathlessness of man contradicts the truth that sinful men will die (Gen. 2:17; Ezk. 18:4), and the deification of man contradicts the truth that man is not God (Gen. 1:26; Ps. 100:3). Satan through his demons and dupes has perpetuated the lies of the Garden and re-packaged them as humanism and reincarnation. Man is good and ultimately god, and will advance to spirit deity through some form of reincarnation. All world religious movements will unite around the re-packaged variations of the Gnostic lies, until Satan will expose the raw tenets of his doctrine at

the midpoint of the Tribulation. Only those who receive the biblical revelation of the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ will be protected from Garden Gnosticism. Independent Baptist churches are not exempt from the temptation to embrace elements of Gnosticism such as the Critical Text and the universal invisible church heresy. As the Apostle Paul charged Timothy to resist Gnostic attacks upon the Work of Christ, and as John urged his assembly to avoid Gnostic attacks upon the Person of Christ, so the Lord's assemblies today have the same injunctions to resist the oppositions of science falsely so called, which false science (gnosis) promotes heresies relating to the Person and Work of the precious Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

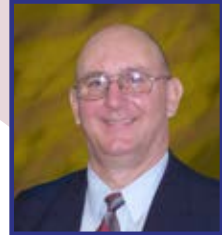
DEVOTIONAL CORNER

The Grace Of God

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.

Titus 2:11

What a beautiful little verse in which we are told that it is the grace of God that brings salvation. It is not a certain kind of religion, or a certain kind of church, or a certain kind of ritual, or a certain kind of holy person, but the Scripture declares, it is the grace of God that brings salvation and that it has appeared to all men. What is this grace and what does it mean?



Pastor Cas Reeves

The Greek word for "grace" is charis, which means, pleasing, favored, grace. In Acts 7:10, this same word charis: is translated favour. Speaking of Joseph, we are told that God gave him a pleasing favor or grace in the sight of Pharaoh. So, we learn that grace or favour comes from God. We are told in Romans 3:12 that there is none that doeth good when referring to man; thus, we can conclude that man does not merit God's favour upon him. In Ephesians 2:8,9, we learn that salvation comes by God's grace and that it is a gift; therefore, we deduce that God's grace

upon men to save them comes from an unmerited favour toward them on the part of God. What is the grace of God? It is God's unmerited favor upon men. It is His pleasing to save an unworthy person and give them the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ His only begotten Son.

What about this grace of God and what does it mean to us, who are saved? We are told that it has appeared to all men. In other words, all men have opportunity to receive God's Christ, His gracious gift who will save men from their God separating sin. In verse 12 - 14, we learn that this grace teaches men that they are to be denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, and that we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world. And that we are to be looking for that blessed hope and glorious appearing of the great God and Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Have you been a partaker of God's grace? Have you received Jesus Christ as your Savior? If not, you should today! Christian can you see the grace of God teaching you and cause you to look for Christ's coming? If not, make sure you get thing right between you and God now! CAR

Quotes From the Past:

**George Washington
1732-1799**

First President of the USA



George Washington

"Nothing can be more hurtful to the service, than the neglect of discipline; for that discipline, more than numbers, gives one army the superiority over another."

BBTS Graduation

On May 17, 2015, Bible Baptist Church will have its sixth Bible Baptist Theological Seminary Graduation with six men receiving their respective degrees. Included in this class will be three men from Ireland. We thank the Lord for the privilege to train Christ's servants



2014 BBTS Graduation

at home and abroad for the Lord's work in the Scripture.

THE BOOK CORNER

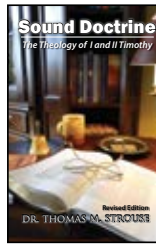
The Book Corner

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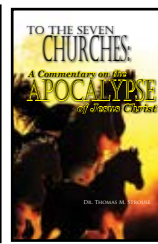
New Church Plant

The Book Corner

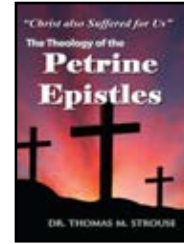
These Books may be purchased through **Bible Baptist Church**:
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860-229-5387



I & II Timothy \$20.00



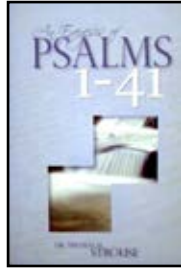
Revelation \$30.00



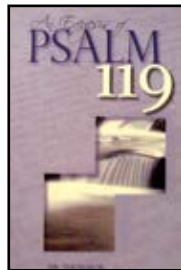
Peter \$20.00



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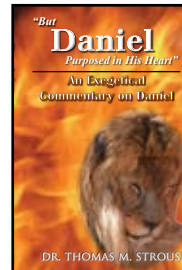
Psalms 1 - 41 \$20.00



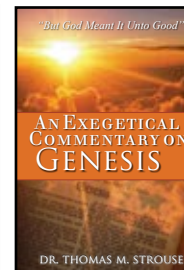
Psalms 119 \$20.00



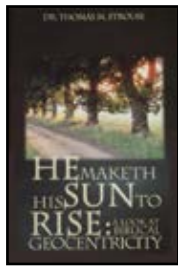
Spiritual Gifts \$8.00



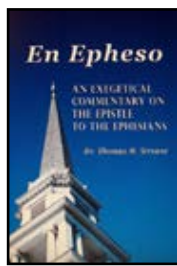
Daniel \$20.00



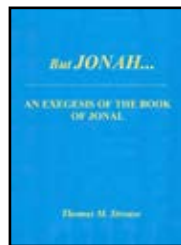
Genesis \$20



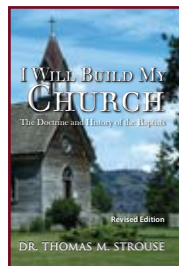
Geocentricity \$10.00



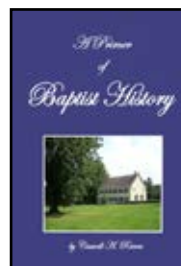
En Epheso \$20.00



Jonah \$10.00



I Will Build My Church \$15.00



A Primer of Baptist History \$20.00



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New Church Plant

On April 5, 2015, Bible Baptist Church commissioned Mr. Mark Schabert and family to plant Victory Baptist Church in their home in Wethersfield, CT. Pray for this new church plant



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

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