



BBC UPDATE

Jesus and Beer

By Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

Introduction

In this post-Christian era in the west and especially in America, Christians and their respective churches are becoming more and more ignorant biblically, reminiscent of Hosea's denunciation of his generation, saying, *"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children"* (Hos. 4:6). Professed Christians demonstrate their lack of knowledge relative to the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ because of their lack of knowledge of the Scriptures. The precious Lord Jesus looked to Scripture as the final authority on all revealed subjects (Mt. 4:4), and asked several questions to His biblically-ignorant audience. He queried the biblically-ignorant Jewish religionists and traditionalists, trained in the *Tanak*, with questions such as, *"have ye not read this scripture; The stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner"* (Mk. 12:10), and *"Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God?"* (Mk. 12:24). Furthermore, the former Pharisee and then regenerated Paul of Tarsus had learned to regulate his life around the expression *"For what saith the scripture?"* (Rom. 4:3; 11:2; Gal. 4:30).

As a whole, Christianity in America is biblically ignorant and therefore very carnal and worldly. Many churches have normalized carnality to such an extent that it is difficult to distinguish Christian doctrine and practice from that of the ungodly world of the heathen. For instance, in a recent AP article entitled "Jesus and Beer: Some religious groups finding way to combine both,"¹ various expressions, such as "Jesus &

¹ Carrie Antlfinger. www.cbsnews.com/news/jesus-and-beer-some-religious-groups-finding-way-to-combine-both. September 15, 2016, 9:19 PM.

beer," "brewing the faith," and "theology on tap,"² permeate the article.³ A recent spate of books have a common but convoluted refrain positing the tenets that the Bible approves of alcoholic drinks, that drunkenness however must be avoided, and that the writer is not necessarily an imbiber.⁴ Biblical ignorance among Christians and their respective churches weaken Christianity to an anemic, carnal, and weak religion, while at the same time promoting godless carnality in America, in the name of Christ!

Popular Argument

The most popular argument is that Jesus ate and drank with sinners. This defense finds alleged support in Luke's Gospel: *"For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine; and ye say, He hath a devil. The Son of man is come eating and drinking; and ye say, Behold a gluttonous man, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners!"* (Lk. 7:33-34). The assumption that "wine" (*oinos*) is always alcoholic is gratuitous,⁵ since John was to follow the Nazarite pattern of avoiding anything from the vineyard (Lk. 1:15),⁶ as Moses revealed, saying, *"He shall separate himself from wine and strong drink, and shall drink no vinegar of wine, or vinegar of strong drink, neither shall he drink*

² www.hymnsandhops.com.

³ Will those with a Christian beer "ministry" also have an alcoholic recovery ministry?

⁴ Cf. Joel McDurmon, *What Would Jesus Drink? A Spirit Filled Study* (Dallas, GA: Tolle Lege Press, 2011); Kenneth L. Gentry, *God Gave Wine: What the Bible says about Alcohol* (Fountain Inn, SC: Victorious Hope Publishing, 2015); and Randy Jaeggli, *Christians and Alcohol: A Scriptural Case for Abstinence* (Greenville, SC: Bob Jones University Press, 2014).

⁵ Cf. *"Binding his foal unto the vine, and his ass's colt unto the choice vine; he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes"* (Gen. 49:11).

⁶ Cf. the avoidance of wine in relationship to the filling of the Spirit in Lk. 1:15 and Eph. 5:18.

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JESUS AND BEER

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any liquor of grapes, nor eat moist grapes, or dried” (Num. 6:3). The Lord’s religious enemies slanderously accused Him of being a glutton and winebibber,⁷ as they also accused Him elsewhere of being the illegitimate product of fornication (Jn. 8:41). Moreover, the early Christians received the slander that they were drunken with new wine (Acts 2:13-15). The fact that the impeccable Saviour ate and drank with sinners does not mean that He violated the very Scriptures He wrote.

Word Study

The OT employed the terms “wine” (*yayin*)⁸ and “strong drink” (*shecar* [23x]) in passages of commendation and condemnation. Obviously the context dictates whether the juices were fresh or fermented. For instance, the LORD commended the pursuit of good things for rejoicing, saying, “*And thou shalt bestow that money for whatsoever thy soul lusteth after, for oxen, or for sheep, or for wine, or for strong drink, or for whatsoever thy soul desireth: and thou shalt eat there before the LORD thy God, and thou shalt rejoice, thou, and thine household*” (Gen. 14:26). Nevertheless, He condemned these beverages for those who needed full faculty of mind for judgment (and who does not?), saying, “*It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink: Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted*” (Prov.

⁷ Certainly the Saviour was not a glutton since His very words decried gluttony (Dt. 21:20). He promoted “moderation” and “temperance” in all, saying through the Apostle Paul, “*Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand*” (Phil. 4:5), and “*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law*” (Gal. 5:22-23; see also Acts 24:25 and II Pet. 1:6), respectively. Neither was He a winebibber!

⁸ Etymologically, *yayin* (141x) is the word source for the Greek *oinos* (32x) and English *wine* (y-n > o-n > w-n).

⁹ The *KJV* followed the *Geneva Bible* (1560) and translated the single Hebrew word *shecar* as “strong drinke,” differentiating it from *yayin* and denoting undiluted fruit juice. “Strong drink” (22x) does not mean hard liquor or beer, contrary to modern western interpretation. “Strong drink” expressed a juice concentrate that needed water for dilution.

31:4-5). What saith the Scripture about fermented wine? Solomon warned, saying, “*Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder. Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things*” (Prov. 23:29-33). Although some may argue that this refers to the abuse of alcohol, the passage reveals the addictive nature of alcohol and receives corroboration from the NT.

What saith Scripture about the nature of fermented wine or alcohol? The Apostle Paul asserted, saying, “*And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit*” (Eph. 5:18). Several salient points come to the forefront. 1) The verse contrasts that which controls an individual internally—alcoholic “spirits” or the Holy Spirit. 2) The verse prohibits being drunk (*methusko*). 3) The verse reveals that the very nature of wine “*is excess*” (*estin asotia*);¹⁰ it is addictive and leads to excess or drunkenness (“*be not drunk*”). 4) Conclusive then, the verse prohibits alcoholic wine because of its nature, rather than merely prohibiting drunkenness.

What saith the Scripture about distributing alcohol to others? Apparently the Babylonians forced the Jews to drink alcoholic wine, causing them to be drunk and to cast off their clothes. Habakkuk asseverated, saying, “*Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that puttest thy bottle to him, and makest him drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness!*” (Hab. 2:15).¹¹ The woe falls upon those who give alcohol to others for the result of

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¹⁰ The dative prepositional phrase “*in which*” (*en ho*) refers to the dative noun “*wine*” (*oino*), and reveals biblically that the very nature of alcoholic wine “*is*” excessive (drunkenness)—whether the first drink or the last. The verb “*is*” (*estin*) denotes the perpetual essence of wine as “*excess*” because it is addictive.

¹¹ Noah was the first drunk in the Bible, paralleling Adam by sinning in his garden relative to the fruit of a tree and influencing his offspring, especially Canaan, detrimentally (Gen. 9:20-25).

Beyond The Curtain

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty. ²Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment: who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain: ³Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters: who maketh the clouds his chariot: who walketh upon the wings of the wind: ⁴Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire: ⁵Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever.

Psalm 104:1-5



Pastor Cas Reeves

The heavens are just amazing to observe. Their vastness overwhelms our thoughts. They are difficult to describe in words. Men attempt to understand them and to discover their mysteries. Heavens' glories are a wonder to behold.

We learn from the Bible that the heavens belong to God and that He founded them, *"The heavens are thine, the earth also is thine: as for the world and the fullness thereof, thou hast founded them"* (Psa.89:11), and that God created them with His hands, *"Of old thou hast laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hand"* (Psa.102:25). And that He named them, *"And God called the firmament Heaven"* (Gen.1:8) The heavens stand as a testimony to the glory, majesty and power of almighty God. *"The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament showeth his handywork"* (Psa.19:1).

Now think of this, in Psa.104:2, it says, that God *"...stretchest out the heavens like a curtain."* A curtain is something that shuts off our view or comprehension of what is beyond the point of its position. We know some curtains to be beautiful and some to be plain, but both do the same job. If then the heavens are like a curtain to God's abode, and the wonders of this curtain are beyond our comprehension in depth and majesty and awe, how much more are the glories and majesties and beauties of the place beyond that we call heaven in which God makes his abode and in which God's children will one day make their abode.

What a hope for Believers! What a declaration for God! What a condemnation for the unbelieving man. Let us be mindful, that as we look into the heavens that these same heavens leave mankind without an excuse for their unbelief (Rom.1:20).

-CAR

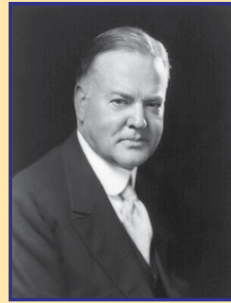
DEVOTIONAL CORNER

Quotes From the Past:

Herbert C. Hoover

1874-1964

31st President of the USA



Herbert C. Hoover

"Menaced by collectivist trends, we must seek revival of our strength in the spiritual foundations which are the bedrock of our republic."

Jesus and Beer

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allowing its inherent nature to lead to drunkenness and nakedness. Because of the danger of the woe and the nature of alcohol, it behooves the Christian to abstain from all alcohol. What saith the Scripture about the Lord Jesus Christ supposedly giving alcoholic wine at the wedding (Jn. 2:1-11)? What saith the Scripture about the Apostle Paul encouraging Timothy (I Tim. 5:23) and deacons supposedly to drink (I Tim. 3:8) but clearly prohibiting bishops (I Tim. 3:3)? Consistent biblical hermeneutics will dictate the Bible interpretations.

Conclusion

To be sure, the Lord Jesus Christ was a friend to publicans and sinners because He loved them (Mt. 11:18-19), but He did not contradict or compromise His own teachings to win them (cf. Jn. 10:35). What saith the Scripture? Did Jesus drink beer? No! Did Jesus offer beer to others? No! *"Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled"* (Tit. 1:15).

GROW IN GRACE

DEVOTIONAL FOR WOMEN

Grow In Grace

4

Devotional for Women

Thankful for Crumbs

22 And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.

23 But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us.

24 But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

25 Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.

26 But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs.

27 And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.

28 Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

Matthew 15:22-28

Reflection: Already in the very first verse, we hear this woman's faith in knowing who Jesus was! We also can hear her humility in

approaching Jesus. When you read through this passage, can you name 3-4 examples of this demonstration of humility?

Where was the compassion of the disciples? Man will fail us every time but the Lord never will. His crumbs are better than anything the world has to offer! Jesus could see this woman's heart and He answered her prayer

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Challenge: All of what this woman did, was not for herself, but for her daughter. Have you prayed this fervently for someone you love? Although Jesus did not answer her in verse 23, she didn't give up and persisted regardless of the potential discouragement she could have felt. Does this describe your prayer life?

If you would like to receive Grow in Grace morning devotions emailed to you Monday - Friday, please email me at:

Elenas6259@gmail.com

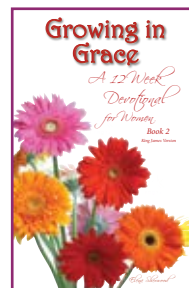
Growing in Grace: A 12 Week Devotional for Women Books 1 & 2



Book 1

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



Book 2

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.

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

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

4TH OF JULY AT BBC



Two Patriotic Ladies!



After the Evening service on the Fourth of July, BBC members enjoyed a time of fellowship and fireworks!



Pastor's Trip to Israel

The Lord willing, Pastor and Mrs. Thomas M. Strouse will be taking a trip to Israel, visiting various biblical sites on a guided tour (Oct. 8-18, 2018). This should be a tremendous blessing for both to see various geographical and historical sites giving a new dimension to the Bible.



BBTS Summer Schedule

July 23-27, 2018

Plymouth, NH Module

"Minor Prophets, Part One"

Aug 20-24, 2018

Fairhaven Baptist College Module

"Minor Prophets, Part One"

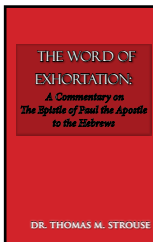
THE BOOK CORNER

These Books may be purchased through **Bible Baptist Church:**
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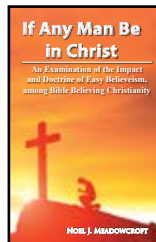
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Isaiah
\$20.00



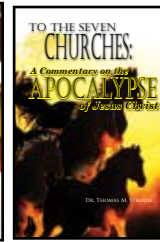
Hebrews
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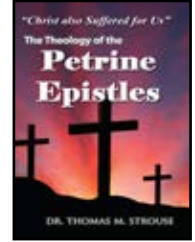
If Any Man Be ...
\$10.00



I & II Timothy
\$20.00



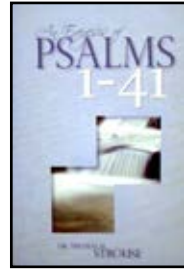
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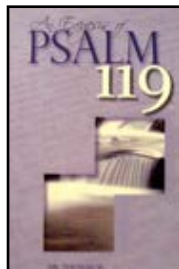
Peter
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I & II Thessalonians
\$20.00



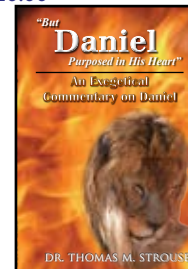
Psalms 1 - 41
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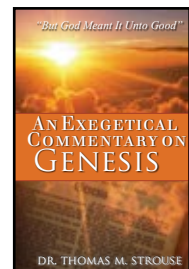
Psalms 119
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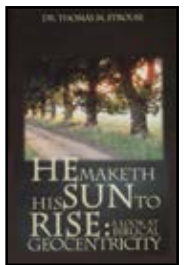
Spiritual Gifts
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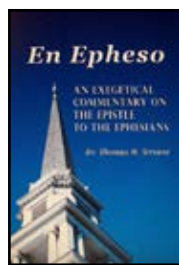
Daniel
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Genesis
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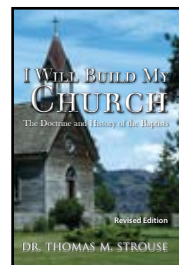
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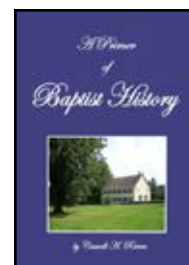
En Epheso
\$20.00



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 Labor Day Cookout!
September 3, 2018
3 PM to 7 PM

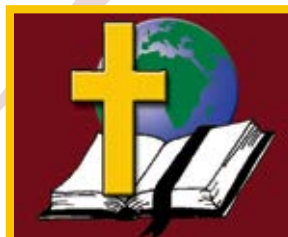
A-R Please bring side dishes
S-Z Please bring desserts
Meat and buns provided
Remember to bring lawn chairs!

Strouse House
164 Hickory Hill Rd.
New Britain, CT 06052
860-229-5387
RSVP



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