



BBC UPDATE

Bible Baptist Church hosts 5th Annual VBS

Dr. Thomas Strouse



On July 7-9, 2014, the Lord enabled Bible Baptist Church to host the fifth annual Vacation Bible School, under the leadership of Mr. Ryan Strouse. Ryan received excellent help from Mrs. Kirsten Gagnon and several other ladies

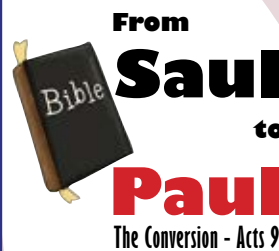
Dr. Thomas Strouse in the assembly. Several visitors came as all were challenged with the spiritual transformation of "Saul to Paul." We thank the Lord for this ministry of BBC.



Mr. Ryan Strouse handed out Bible Memory Awards during Wednesday Evening VBS Finale



The children enjoyed a time of singing, games, crafts, Bible Lessons and Bible verse memory



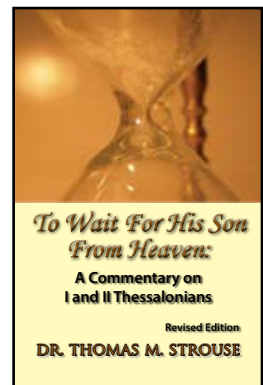
Our older youth helped out in all areas of VBS, including registration and listening to the Bible memory verses the children learned each day.



Revised Edition of I & II Thessalonians Coming Soon!

Dr. Thomas Strouse's book *To Wait For His Son From Heaven: A Commentary on I and II Thessalonians* will be revised and reprinted. Of late there have been many speculative and unbiblical voices clamoring to express their supposed knowledge for the date of the Second Coming of the Lord. Serious, consistent commentary on Scripture, and especially on eschatological books such as I and II Thessalonians, is the need of the hour. Too many are unskillful and not careful with the text of the Bible, and hence they posit faulty statements that only advance the purposes of the enemy.

It is my prayer that the saints of Bible Baptist Church, and of other New Testament assemblies, will be instructed in and edified by the truth of this commentary. Contact Bible Baptist Church, 860-229-538, to order your copy for \$20.



ARTICLE

Satan's Ecumenical Religion - Part 2

By Dr. Thomas Strouse

Continued from July 1, 2014 edition

Article

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"Satan's Ecumenical Religion"

Pseudo-Christian Cults

Mormonism

Begun at least by 1830, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons) was demonically inspired movement of Joseph Smith (1805-1844). The Mormon plan of eternal progression is an obvious manifestation of the lies of the Garden, as Intelligences in the past allowed God and his wife to have Spirit Children. These Spirit Children warred and one third became evil, falling to the earth with no opportunity to receive a body for advancement. The remaining two thirds needed bodies to advance on earth and become gods. This advancement was achieved by being good Mormons, which included populating the world (through polygamy) with bodies for the Spirit Children. After death and further advancement in Paradise, men will be resurrected for the Judgment, which judgment will result in everyone going to one of three kingdoms, the Celestial, the Terrestrial, or the Telestial. This cycle is eternally progressive.

Jehovah Witnesses

Through the impetus of Charles T. Russell (1852-1916) and then later with the efforts of Joseph F. Rutherford (1869-1942), the Jehovah Witnesses began (1874) and blossomed. Their teaching was Garden Gnosticism, positing that Jehovah created Jesus (= Michael) who created man. In 1914, Jesus began ruling in heaven and Satan and his demons were subsequently cast down. Satan will oppose Jehovah Witnesses during Armageddon, and those slain will be gradually resurrected during the Millennium. The exact number of 144,000 Jehovah Witnesses will go to heaven to rule with Christ without bodies. After the resurrection there will be the final test to see who will identify with Satan's rebellion and those who do will be killed and annihilated. The righteous will live on earth with a body and under the rule of the 144,000.

Common Gnostic heresies include the denial of the Trinity, spiritual advancement after death, denial of hell but acceptance of the doctrine of annihilation, and de-emphasis on the physical body.

Christian Science

Mary Baker Eddy (1821-1910) espoused her version of the lies of the Garden, declaring that God is the "divine principle" or "mind," that there is no Trinity, and that sin is an illusion of the mortal mind. Man is perfect and should strive for the Divine Mind of Christ (who was not born of a virgin and did not resurrect). Through understanding the teachings of her book *Science and Health with the Key to Scripture*, man may be freed from the illusion of evil, recognize that he is spiritual, and be absorbed back into the pantheistic Infinite Mind.

The Worldwide Church of God (Armstrongism)

The businessman Herbert W. Armstrong (1900-) founded The Worldwide Church of God in 1931, having interjected Gnosticism into his Seventh Day Church background. He taught that God wanted to reproduce himself, and that those who were baptized and adhered to his teachings were begotten until Jesus returned. Then they will be resurrected as immortal Spirit "God" beings. He denied the biblical teaching concerning the Trinity doctrine and promoted the doctrine of "soul sleep."

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Non-Christian Cults

Theosophy

Through the grossly corrupt and immoral drug addict, Helena Blavatsky (1831-1891), the Theosophical Society began in 1875 in New York. She combined Hinduism and Spiritism²⁷ to found her society for the purpose of studying the occult and the Cabbala.²⁸ Blavatsky taught that man is a god in the making, and through reincarnation all may become “a Christ.”

Neo-Paganism

The popularization of “neo-pagan” in “The Church of all Worlds” movement of Oberon Zell-Ravenheart (1968) had its foundation in the goddess movement, Norse mythology, and the movements of the Neo-Druids, Neo-shamanism, and the Neo-native American religion. Neo-Paganism encompasses a great variety of religious movements which teach pantheism, reincarnation, karma, spiritual imbalance with nature, and ultimate advancement through practices such as dances, chants, trances, magic, invoking spirits, and use of intercessors such as psychics, seers, shamans, Tarot card reading mediums, and Ouija (French “yes” and German “yes”) board practitioners.

Scientology

L. Ron Hubbard founded the Church of Scientology in 1953, expressing a modern and expensive version of the lies of the Garden. Supposedly, expressions of “life force” called Thetans created the material world and became encased in flesh. In time they forgot their divine origin and nature, and developed Engrams or mental hindrances to their identity. Consequently they need the Engrams cleared through the use of the E-meter, so that they can advance in their assumptions (= reincarnation) back to spirit deity. Satan’s religion is thinly disguised in this Garden Gnosticism.

III. The Ecumenical Harlot Church of the Tribulation

During the Tribulation, Satan will unite all of the anti-Christian religions around their variegated and repackaged expressions of the lies of the Garden, before he destroys the Ecumenical Harlot Church at the beginning of the last three and a half years of Tribulation (Rev. 17:16-17). Repackaged in these worldwide religions, cults, Protestantism, and Roman Catholicism, sometimes deeply and sometimes superficially, will be the lies of deification and deathlessness. Each will teach the basic goodness (deity) of man and his ability to advance spiritually in this life (works salvation) and/or the next (purgatory, reincarnation).²⁹ Catholics will unite with Hindus, Mormons with Protestants, and Jehovah Witnesses with devotees of Neo-paganism. When the Devil and his angels are cast out of heaven, he will energize the Beast to destroy the Harlot church and promote raw Satanism, unveiling the previously repackaged lies of deification and deathlessness.

IV. The Pauline Counter to the Lies of the Garden

The Apostle Paul gave the scriptural defense against Greek philosophy and the Gnostic heresy of the first century (Col. 2:9-11), as he refuted Plato’s Garden Gnostic teaching concerning the fulness

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²⁷ Modern Spiritism began in 1848 with the John Fox daughters who communicated with the poltergeist “Mr. Splitfoot.” Spiritualistic groups posit the message that “there is no death,” and mediums communicate with departed spirits for guidance in this life and afterward about endless progression. They deny the redemptive work of Christ, the forgiveness of sins, heaven and hell, and biblical revelation.

²⁸ She seemed to have connections with Brooke Foss Westcott (of Critical Text notoriety) and the “Ghost-lie Guild” society.

²⁹ *Vide* Thomas M. Strouse, *To the Seven Churches: A Commentary on the Apocalypse of Jesus Christ* (Cromwell, CT: Bible Baptist Theological Press, 2013), pp. 679 ff.

ARTICLE

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(πλήρωμα). Understanding Paul's exposition of truth about the πλήρωμα will help one understand how wide-spread Platonic Gnosticism was in the first century of New Testament Christianity, and how easily the un-regenerated church fathers (Patristics) "platonized" Christian doctrine. These erroneous notions appear in the textual tampering represented by the Critical Text (CT), in the promotion of a Gnostic Christ as refuted by the Apostle John (I Jn. 2:22; 4:1-3), in the perversion of the meaning, mode, and timing of biblical baptism, and in the universal, invisible church heresy. The Lies of the Garden (Gen. 3:4-5) manifested in Greek philosophy and especially through Plato, which in turn influenced the un-regenerate apostolic church fathers who were foundational to the errors of Catholicism, which errors the Protestants attempted to reform in modified forms. This Platonic Gnosticism rears its diabolical head in Baptist churches, as platonized and protestantized Baptists perpetuate the Gnostic-laced CT and resultant translations, and/or promote admittedly, a "Platonic," "universal," "invisible," "true," "ideal," "mystical body of Christ" church.

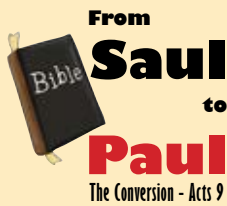
The Greek word πλήρωμα occurs 17x in the NT. It refers to "that which is full" or "that which fills." The cognate verb πληρώω occurs 90x and means "to fill." The following are significant passages:

1. "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) **full of grace and truth**" (Jn. 1:14). The incarnate Lord Jesus was and is the embodiment of divine grace and truth.
2. "And of his **fulness** have all we received, and grace for grace" (Jn. 1:16). John affirmed that the Apostles and presumably all believers have received the divine *pleroma* upon receiving the Saviour (Jn. 1:12).
3. "Which is his body, the **fulness** of him that **filleth** all in all" (Eph. 1:23). The incarnate and resurrected Lord Jesus Christ fills His body (i.e., local church) with His *pleroma*.
4. "And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be **filled** with all the **fulness** of God" (Eph. 3:19). Regenerated church members have the expectation to be filled with the divine glories and communicable attributes of God, having the Triune Godhead dwelling within.
5. "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the **fulness** of Christ" (Eph. 4:13). Saved church members must grow in the divine perfections as Peter implored (II Pet. 1:4-8).
6. "For it pleased the Father that in him should all **fulness** dwell" (Col. 1:19). Christ was and is the complete composite of all the perfections, attributes, and characteristics of God the Father.
7. "For in him dwelleth all the **fulness** of the Godhead bodily" (Col. 2:9). Again, for reemphasis, Paul declared that the Lord Jesus Christ was indeed, "God was manifest in the flesh" (I Tim. 3:16).
 - a. "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. (Col. 2:8). Paul warned the Colossian church members about Greek philosophy and demonic doctrines.
 - b. "And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power" (Col. 2:10). He clearly testified that Christ alone is the *pleroma*, the Christian is complete in the Lord and does not need to advance up the *pleroma*, and Christ is actually and believers are positionally above all angelic (demonic) beings.

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V. 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.



New VBS Theme Song

Written by Mrs. Kirsten Gagnon
Sung to the tune of "The Twelve Spies of Canaan"

Saul of Tarsus was a man
Who hated all the Christians

What do you think happened to him
Because he hated Christians?

Jesus came as a great light.
Made him blind, as black as night.

He became a Christian through it all.
Then Jesus changed his name to Paul.



Mrs. Gagnon and Amanda teach the children the new words to a familiar song during VBS.

VBS Song Time!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS Game Time!



The Lord blessed with beautiful weather for outdoor games!

Vacation Bible School

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Photos



Musical chairs!



Bible Memory



Snack Time



Craft Time



Bible Lesson Time

VBS/BBC NEWS

VBS

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BBC News



Mrs. Gagnon did a fantastic job of teaching the children about Saul, his persecution of the Christians, and his subsequent conversion!



New Members

But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.

I Corinthians 12:18

We would like to welcome our newest members of our assembly:

Mr. and Mrs. Wes Codrington and Mrs. Buffey Bacon

Star Baptist Church, Star, Idaho

Pastor Jerry Akers is pleased to report the recent addition of a new sign on the building which houses their church family! Their assembly is now clearly identified in their community. Praise the Lord!



Upcoming Events at BBC

BBTS Module - "Cults" July 21-25
Plymouth, NH

BBTS Module - "Bibliology I" August 4-8
Star, ID

BBTS Module - "II Corinthians" August 18-22
Chesterton, IN

Labor Day Picnic
September 1 from 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Strouse House

Ordination Council for James Lawrence
September 6 from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Bible Baptist Church

Commissioning Service for Missionaries James and Kathy Lawrence"
September 7 at 1:30 PM
Bible Baptist Church

BBTS Modules - "Matthew" Sept. 22-26
"Baptist History I"
Prague, Czech Republic

BBC NEWS

BBC Member Preaches at Bible Conference

Bible Conference



Jeff Skorupski

Brother Jeff Skorupski was invited to Dublin, Ireland to preach an 11 message Bible Conference hosted by Blanchardstown Baptist Church in Blanchardstown, Dublin. The series surveyed the Scripture concerning our spiritual warfare. The focus was on individual and corporate awareness of the Christian battle and the victory available in the conflict. Brother Jeff also was privileged to have the opportunity challenge the men and women separately, each in a private session.



Above: Brother Skorupski with members of Blanchardstown Baptist Church at their 2014 Bible Retreat.

<< Left: The Lord provided a wonderful place to stay at Castledaly Manor. The rooms were quite lovely and the accommodations a blessing.

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Lawrence Ministry Update

Faithful Men Missions

Dedicated to Teaching the Truth of God

II Timothy 2:2

The summer is moving along quickly and we are especially looking forward to the ordination and commissioning service scheduled for September 6th. We are regularly making contacts with perspective churches. Generally, we send out an informative e-mail and follow up with a phone call. attention is gradually shifting westward as our time here grows short. We recently scheduled a meeting in Carlsbad, New Mexico, 2015. We still have churches in Virginia and New Jersey to visit this summer.

We are anticipating the September move to Utah and commencing the work in Utah, ministering with the Hurricane assembly, Fellowship Baptist Church.

Thank you for your prayers. The Lawrence's



James & Kathryn Lawrence

Learn more about their work at:

<http://www.faithfulmenmissions.com/>

Special Music at BBC



The BBC Men's Quartet sang the patriotic "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" with Caleb Schabert accompanying on the piano.



Thy Blessing Is Upon Thy People

DEVOTIONAL CORNER



Pastor Cas Reeves

Psalm 3:1-8

One of the greatest things that I have seen as a saved man is how God blesses His people in a continual manner as they walk with Him throughout their life. Many times this continual blessing of God, is referred to by us as 'the

good life.'

The Psalmist states there are many that mock our God and us (1). They rise up against us and tell us that God is not our help (2). Yet the Psalmist declares, that the LORD is our shield, the One in whom we can take refuge behind. As does a child behind his mother's skirt or as a soldier does behind his shield of armor so is the LORD our shield (3). The Lord is our glory or honor (3); He is the One who lifts us up with His strength (3), the One from whom all our blessings flow. It is He whom we call upon in our joy and distress and it is He who hears our prayers from His heavenly abode (4). Truly, we are privileged.

The Psalmist reveals that it is the LORD that awakens us and sustains us on a daily basis. That it is He that gives us rest and protects us in that rest and causes us to rise again each day of our lives (5). And as well, He sustains us with breath to breath and food to eat. Truly He is our Sustainer (5). He has removed the fear of our enemies, regardless of their strength and given us great boldness through His strength that we might declare, 'I will not be afraid.' (6)

Yes, it is the LORD who is our salvation to whom we can call in our moment of need (7). It is He that is the victorious One over our enemies and troubles. It is to Him that salvation belongs and to whom His people are so blessed (8).

-CAR

Quotes From the Past:

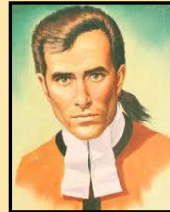
David Brainard

1718 – 1747

Early American Missionary

Excerpt from his diary posted

December 29, 1743



David Brainard

Lord's Day, December 29

...After public worship was over, I went to my house, proposing to preach again after a short season of intermission.

But they soon came in one after another; with tears in their eyes, to know, "what they should do to be saved..." It was an amazing season of power among them, and seemed as if God had "bowed the heavens and come down..." and that God was about to convert the whole world.



Each of these children from the BBC Sunday School memorized all 40 verses of Psalm 37 - A Psalm of David. They were able to recite it for our church assembly during the afternoon service!

THE BOOK CORNER

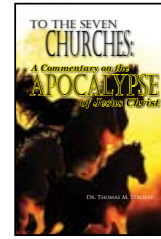
The Book Corner

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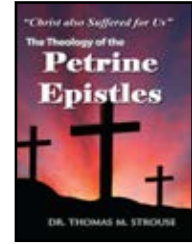
Photos

The Book Corner

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



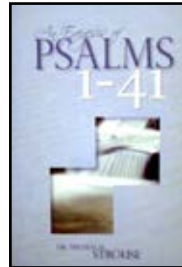
Revelation
\$30.00



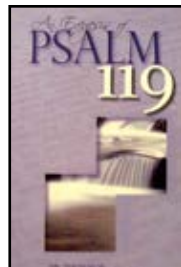
Peter
\$20.00



I & II Thessalonians
\$20.00



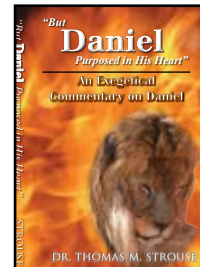
Psalms 1 - 41
\$20.00



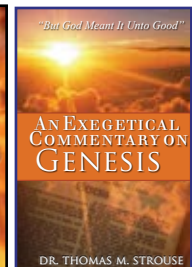
Psalm 119
\$20.00



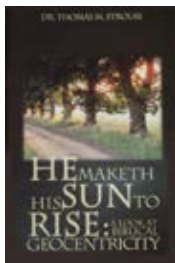
Spiritual Gifts
\$8.00



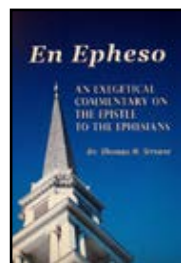
Daniel
\$20.00



Genesis
\$20



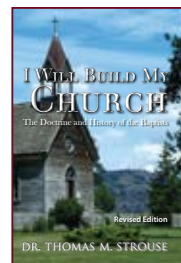
Geocentricity
\$10.00



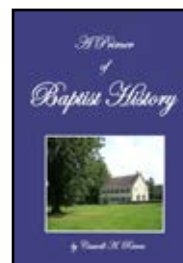
En Epheso
\$20.00



Jonah
\$10.00



I Will Build My Church
\$15.00

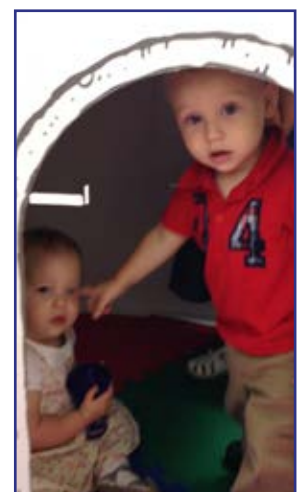


A Primer of Baptist History
\$20.00



The Lord God Hath Spoken
\$15.00

BBC Fellowship



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

drtms_bbts@juno.com



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