



BBC UPDATE

BAPTIST DISSIMULATION



Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

In late July, 2020, Pastor John MacArthur of Grace Community Church, Sun Valley, CA reopened his church which houses several thousand members, defying the governor's orders. He rejected the government-imposed moratorium, and of all places, in California! Independent and fundamental Baptists know Dr. MacArthur well, primarily because he is a neo-evangelical and is weak on translations, music, and standards, and is pro-Reformed Theology. These issues make easy fodder for biblical Baptists and rock-ribbed fundamentalists to excoriate him regularly, as they have for many years. Nevertheless, Pastor MacArthur has decided to be biblical and refuse to be bullied by Caesar any longer, and recently opened up his church to public services and congregational singing again! In this particular instance, there is a deadening silence of commendation for Dr. MacArthur's biblical obedience coming from all of his independent and fundamentalist Baptist detractors! Why, because his aforementioned detractors for the most part have been disobedient to the command of the precious Lord Jesus Christ, who said using the *aorist* imperative, "*Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's*" (Mk. 12:17). Interestingly, even in the *New American Standard Version* which he uses, which is textually flawed because of corrupt supporting manuscripts and which Greek text omits about 7% of the Greek *Textus Receptus*, the truth of the Lord's command rings loud and clear: "*Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.*"

How many Baptist pastors have preached on passages such as "*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour*" (I Pet. 5:8)? Satan has roared in the ear of global, national, and local governments to intimidate Christians worldwide about congregating and singing in worship to the Lord Jesus Christ. The frightened leaders have frightened the populace, including pastors and church members, to the extent that the only One Who is not feared is the Lord GOD! By the way, the LORD roars (Isa. 42:13; Joel 3:16; Amos 1:2; 3:8). Did not King Solomon say, "*The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe*" (Prov. 29:25)? In the last six months how many pastors in America have been imprisoned or fined for refusing government over-reach in their respective church worship of God? This author has heard of threats but does not know of any imprisonments or fines.

The Apostle Paul rebuked the Apostles Peter and Barnabas to their faces for their "*dissimulation*" (*hypokrisis* = hypocrisy), saying, "*But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision. And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation. But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?*" (Gal. 2:11-14). Whereas, independent and fundamental Baptists who

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BAPTIST DISSIMULATION, CONT'D

would be eager to condemn Pastor John MacArthur for his disobedience in other areas, do not and cannot commend his obedience in the basic ecclesiological truth of the necessity of the “assembled assembly,” especially since some of them are disobedient to the Scriptures, and consequently are exposing their “*dissimulation*,” that is, their hypocrisy! What would Paul say to many independent and fundamental Baptist pastors today who collaborate with government and fear the “supposed” repercussions? Would he call them out as hypocrites? More importantly, what will the Lord say at the *Bema*?

Some might say that this author would think differently if he were in a different country, or state, or had a large church, or had multiple ministries, or had elderly members. Would I betray the Lord if I were threatened with “being burnt at the stake”? I would like to think not. But I am a weak earthen vessel; maybe I would—after all the Apostle Peter betrayed the Lord! However, those that will not take the first step in counting the cost of bearing their cross probably won’t take the last step!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

On August 6-8 Bible Baptist Church held its annual Vacation Bible Time. In addition to the children from our assembly, other children attended as well. This year’s theme “Champions for Christ” instructed the children on the importance of being on “God’s Team” and serving Him with courage, strength, faith, leadership, and endurance. Each day Ryan Strouse challenged the children with a salvation message, the first step in being on the team is to choose Christ. Mrs. Kirsten Gagnon further instructed the children to become a player

by baptism into a church assembly. The next step would be to show up for practice by attending church whenever it meets. The head coach (God) instructs the assistant coach (the Pastor) who then instructs the assistant-assistant coaches (Parents) on how to use the rulebook (the Bible) with a specific strategy (obedience) on how to defeat the opposing team (Satan). We each have a position (ministry) and are then given our uniform (the Armor of God) that we must wear every day, in the

game versus the world. We will then have the Victory because Jesus gives us the strength and power.

In addition to Bible time, the children participated in games organized by August Gagnon, Ryan Strouse and Mark Reeves; creative crafts led by Sophia Gagnon; and Christy Strouse provided delicious, nutritious snacks.



*A big part of VBS this year was Bible Memory.
All the children were dedicated to memorizing scripture.*

CHAMPIONS FOR CHRIST

EXAMPLES OF GODLY QUALITIES WE CAN USE TODAY



Outdoor Games



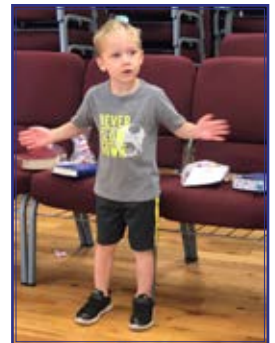
Indoor Games



Craft Time



Song Time



Champions for Christ

team - abc

Courage → Jesus is Savior

Strength → practice → go to church

Faith → assistant → pastor → minister

Leadership → head coach → assistant coach → player

Endurance → rick roll → rick roll → rick roll

→ in world

VICTORY



FAITHFUL MEN BAPTIST CHURCH

The Lawrences

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Fall Schedule

Mr. and Mrs. James Lawrence were sent out from BBC to start a church in Utah in 2014. Brother Lawrence received his Master of Divinity degree in 2014 from BBTS. After two years in Utah, the Lawrence were led by the Lord to relocate in Morgantown, WV and continue to minister with Faithful Men Baptist Church. The Lawrences are not only involved in church planting but also in church building. They have refurbished the Lazzelle Union Elementary School building in 2017 and made it into a facility for their residence well as for their church. Currently they are holding services on Sunday and Thursday evening. Pray for the Lawrences and Faithful Men Baptist Church.



On their recent trip to Pennsylvania, Pastor and Mrs. Strouse were able to see the Lawrences and their newly renovated building.



Our new church sign, compliments of Willow Grove Baptist Church, awaits installation!

2020 BBTS Fall Semester

The fall semester of BBTS for the 2020-2021 year begins September 4th with two courses being offered in residence and online.

The schedule is as follows:

Thursdays
Ezra/Nehemiah
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

TBA
Hebrew I

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



*Left: Ryan and Kirsten during Bible Time.
Above: August and Jack in deep conversation over a snack.
Row 1: Sophia and Landon craft; Amanda and Mark paint;
Jael & Prudence share a selfie with Mrs. Gagnon.
Row 2: Ryan & Pastor Hinebaugh; Sophia & Amanda;
Sophia & Aletheia; Amanda & Bunny
Row 3: The children enjoy fellowship!*



DEVOTIONAL CORNER

Devotional Corner

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Quotes from the Past



Pastor Cas Reeves

RAHAB, FAITH & WORKS

By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.” (Hebrews 11:31)

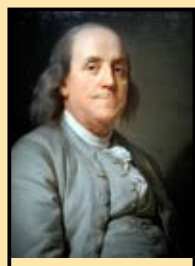
Rahab is one of the great Gentile women of the Bible. She is named in the book of Hebrews in the New Testament. Her name is found in chapter eleven, which is described by some as God’s recorded “Hall of Faith.” Rahab is also one of four Gentile women that are mentioned in the lineage of Jesus Christ in the book of Matthew along with Tamar, Ruth and Bath-sheba.

Rahab is first mentioned in the time just prior to the children of Israel’s crossing over the Jordan River into the land of Canaan. Before the crossing, Joshua sent spies to look over the land. When they came to the city of Jericho the harlot Rahab received them and hid them in her house from the soldiers in Jericho.

Rahab had heard of the testimony of the children of Israel and the power of their God to deliver them from their enemies. She received this testimony, believing upon the Lord of the Israelites, fearing His power, and trusting in His deliverance for herself and of her family. Rahab declared her faith when she said, “...for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath” (Joshua 2:11). Because of this trust in God, she hid the

spies. This work, or act of hiding the spies, James the brother of Jesus reveals, “...also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?” (James 2:25) This question of James is rhetorical. It simply reveals that genuine faith is always followed or accompanied by genuine godly behavior. Thus, the Word of God declares that Rahab was justified, that is saved by faith, and her works were the evidence of her faith.

Rahab is an example for New Testament Christians. She received the testimony of God, which caused her to believe in God, which caused a conversion in her life, causing her to live in her faith toward God. Today, when salvation is real in a person’s life, it is because they receive the testimony of Scripture about Jesus Christ the Son of God (2 Timothy 3:15), which causes them to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, calling upon Him to save them (Romans 10:9,10,13), which then causes them to live godly throughout the rest of their life (2 Corinthians 5:17). Thus, a godly faith will pattern after the example of Rahab’s faith. Do you have a godly faith? Is it evident in your behavior? You can by trusting in Jesus Christ as your Savior (John 1:12). -CAR



Benjamin Franklin
1706-1790

Quotes From the Past:

“By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.”

American Statesman
and Inventor

LABOR DAY COOKOUT

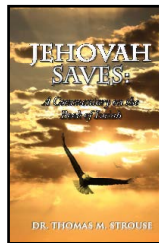
On Labor Day, September 7, 2020, Pastor and Mrs. Strouse will host the annual Strouse House Labor Day Cookout (2 PM to 7 PM). The cookout is open to Bible Baptist Church members, graduates of BBTS, and friends of Bible Baptist Church/BBTS. Hamburgers, hotdogs, buns, chips, and drinks will be provided along with fresh air and the beauty of God’s creation. Please RSVP by Sept 1st, 2020 to:

drtms_bbts@juno.com.
164 Hickory Hill Rd.
New Britain, CT 06052.

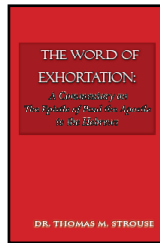
THE BOOK CORNER

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

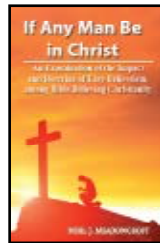
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Isaiah \$20.00



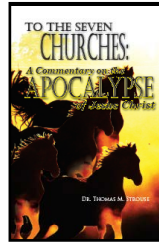
Hebrews \$30.00



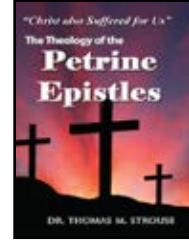
If Any Man Be ... \$10.00



I & II Timothy \$20.00



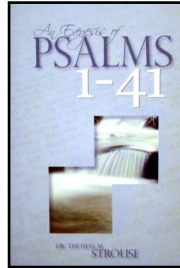
Revelation \$30.00



Peter \$20.00



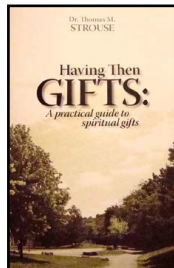
I & II Thessalonians \$20.00



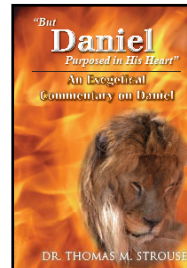
Psalms 1 - 41 \$20.00



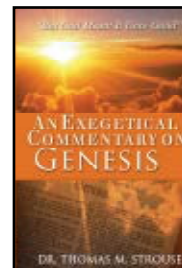
Psalm 119 \$20.00



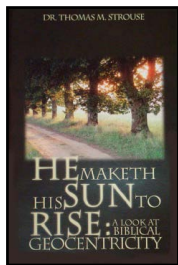
Spiritual Gifts \$8.00



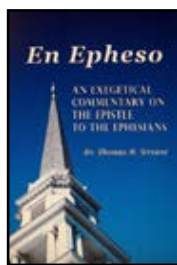
Daniel \$20.00



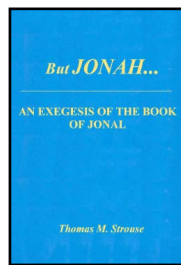
Genesis \$20.00



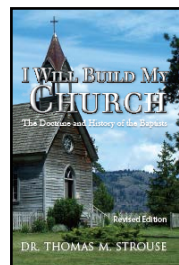
Geocentricity \$10.00



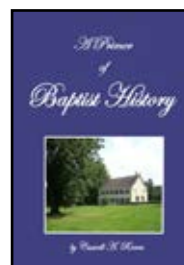
En Epheso \$20.00



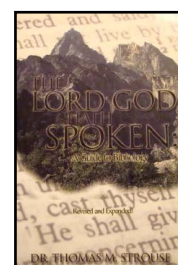
Jonah \$10.00



I Will Build My Church \$15.00



A Primer of Baptist History \$20.00



The Lord God Hath Spoken \$15.00

BBC 2020 SCHEDULE

August 24-28

Fairhaven Baptist Church
"Minor Prophets"

September 4

BBTS Fall Semester Begins

September 7

Labor Day Cookout
Strouse House

September 14-18

BBC of Nashua, NH
"Bibliology"

October 6-17

Israel Tour

October 25-28

Willow Grove Baptist Church
"Timeless Truths Bible Conference"

November 13

BBTS Fall Lecture Series

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

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