



BBC UPDATE

BBC/BBTS Labor Day Picnic

Dr. Thomas M. Strouse



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The Lord sent away the tropical storm headed toward New England and gave a beautiful sunny and breezy day for the annual Bible Baptist Church/Bible Baptist Theological Seminary Labor Day picnic on September 5, 2016. Bible Baptist Church members were in constant prayer that the Creator of nature and the Lord of weather would intervene on behalf of this New Testament assembly and give pleasant weather (cf. 1 Jn. 5:14-15). About seventy saints of God came from six different independent Baptist churches to fellowship around the Lord Jesus Christ and His truth. The picnic is meant to be a time when area churches of like faith and practice may have a time of refreshing enjoyment in the Lord before the Fall busyness comes. Dr. Jerry Wilhite, missionary to Africa attended and gave an encouraging message about being faithful to the faithful Lord. He revealed that he had just received word that he now has a church sponsor in Australia so that he may follow the Lord's leading into the next field of harvest for him and his family—Australia! Let us continue to pray for him.



The 2016 BBC/BBTS picnic attendees.

BBC/BBTS PICNIC

PHOTOS

BBC/BBTS Picnic

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Photos



PHOTOS

BBC/BBTS PICNIC



Bro. Wilhite gave a testimony for all attending.



S'Mores galore!



PAUL'S WORLD REPORT



Paul's World Report

Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

Introduction

Mankind in general and Christians specifically have a degree of ignorance about the world in which man lives. The natural man is in total spiritual darkness concerning the present world and Christians for the most part have at best dim illumination about the current status of this fallen world. Thus un-enlightened man ignores the fallen world, accepts the wickedness of society, and is not prepared for the final solution.

A Fallen World

The Apostle Paul revealed in his Scriptures the nature, power, and direction of the present world. He stated to the Ephesian church a succinct summary of the status of the world, saying, *"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others"* (Eph. 2:1-3). He declared the nature of man stating that he is in fact a sinner who is spiritually dead, following the lustful desires of the flesh and mind and living in disobedience. The spiritual power behind this world is the prince of the power of the air (i.e., Satan) who enslaves mankind in the course of this fallen world. The direction of the world of sinners is heading toward the wrath of God Who will bring a culmination to all unrighteousness. The Apostle further states about the predicament of the spiritually dead, saying, *"That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world"* (Eph. 2:12). Lost mankind has no biblical messiah (the Lord Jesus Christ), no hope (for the future) and is without God (atheists [*atheos*]).

Mankind is trapped in the kingdom of satanic darkness, and must experience regeneration for deliverance, as Paul stated, saying, *"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son"* (Col. 1:13). Again, biblical revelation avers that Satan has blinded mankind, saying, *"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them"* (II Cor. 4:4).

The apostasy of the world continues and even advances, as Paul revealed, saying, *"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God,"* and *"But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived"* (II Tim. 2:1-4, 13). *The Lord is about ready to judge the world as biblical writers revealed, saying, "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness"* (Rom. 1:18), and *"And I am very sore displeased with the heathen that are at ease: for I was but a little displeased, and they helped forward the affliction"* (Zech. 1:15), and *"And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, 8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: 9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power"* (II Thes. 1:7-9).

A Wicked Society

Societies of this fallen world are indeed wicked as well. The American society is a case in point. Currently, the United States of America is on the verge of deciding the direction of the country under the next president. Most Americans including many Christians and Christian churches are making their decisions based on preferences or principles other than biblical revelation and

will consequently perpetuate wickedness and ultimate destruction. The Lord God has ordained human government (Gen. 9:6; Rom. 13:1-8) and expects mankind to follow biblical principles for this God-given institution. Here are some scriptural principles which must be implemented in the decision making process for the national leadership of a society that expects divine blessings and prosperity.

1) **Men should rule, and not women.** God the Father expects men to lead the family, the government, and the church. When women rule nations, God's curse falls upon the nation, as Isaiah predicted, saying, *"As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths"* (Isa. 3:12).

2) **Leaders should rule in truth and with righteousness, and not through deceit and lies.** *"If a ruler hearken to lies, all his servants are wicked"* (Prov. 29:12). When a leader is deceitful, the whole system of government succumbs to deception, corruption, and injustice.

3) **Presidents should deal righteously with the poor in society, and not use them as pawns to perpetuate governmental dependence.** King Solomon said, saying, *"The king that faithfully judgeth the poor, his throne shall be established for ever"* (Prov. 29:14) and *"The righteous considereth the cause of the poor: but the wicked regardeth not to know it"* (Prov. 29:7).

4) **Governments should secure borders, use immigrants to benefit societies, and maintain a strong military.** Again, King Solomon practiced these biblical truths and enjoyed prosperity for forty years, as Scripture states, saying, *"Behold, a son shall be born to thee, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies round about: for his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quietness unto Israel in his days"* (I Chr. 22:9). Consider the following about his kingdom.

a. *"For he had dominion over all the region on this side the river, from Tiphshah even to Azzah, over all the kings on this side the river: and he had peace on all sides round about him"* (I Ki. 4:24).

b. *"And Solomon numbered all the strangers that were in the land of Israel, after the numbering wherewith David his father had numbered them; and they were found an hundred and fifty thousand and three thousand and six hundred. 18 And he set threescore and ten thousand of*

them to be bearers of burdens, and fourscore thousand to be hewers in the mountain, and three thousand and six hundred overseers to set the people a work" (II Chr. 2:17-18).

c. *"Their children that were left after them in the land, whom the children of Israel also were not able utterly to destroy, upon those did Solomon levy a tribute of bondservice unto this day. 22 But of the children of Israel did Solomon make no bondmen: but they were men of war, and his servants, and his princes, and his captains, and rulers of his chariots, and his horsemen"* (I Ki. 9:21-22).

5) **Government must judge righteously and not with respect to men.** *"When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn"* (Prov. 29:2), and *"These things also belong to the wise. It is not good to have respect of persons in judgment"* (Prov. 24:23), and *"But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors"* (Jam. 2:9).

6) **The populace must adhere to the laws of society, respecting especially "blue" lives.** *"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. 2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation"* (Rom. 13:1-2).

A Final Solution

The culmination of things as they are is at hand. There is a coming deliverer who will change the current world status dramatically. The Lord Jesus Christ predicted this one, saying, *"I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive"* (Jn. 5:43). The Apostle John named this one as the Antichrist (I Jn. 2:18, 22; 4:3; II Jn. 1:7) and the Apostle Paul entitled him as the *"man of sin...the son*

(Concludes on page 7...)

GOD RECEIVES YOUR PRAYER

God Receives Your Prayer

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New Book



Pastor Cas Reeves

Psalm 6:1-10: *O LORD, rebuke me not in thine anger, neither chasten me in thy hot displeasure. Have mercy upon me, O LORD; for I am weak: O LORD, heal me; for my bones are vexed. My soul is also sore vexed: but thou, O LORD, how long? Return, O LORD, deliver my soul: oh save me for thy mercies' sake. For in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks? I am weary with my groaning; all the night make I my bed to swim; I water my couch with my tears. Mine eye is consumed because of grief; it waxeth old because of all mine enemies. Depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity; for the LORD hath heard the voice of my weeping. The LORD hath heard my supplication; the LORD will receive my prayer. Let all mine enemies be ashamed and sore vexed: let them return and be ashamed suddenly.*

Are you at a low point in your life? It seems in this life there are many things that happen that

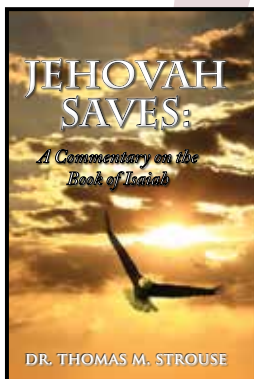
DEVOTIONAL CORNER

can bring us to a low moment in our life. Did you know that God has a remedy for that low moment? That's right God can fix any problem that we have. It's very much like going to the doctor when you have a physical ailment that needs a doctor's attention. Usually the doctor asks, "What may I do to help you?" And you begin to tell him your problem and how you feel.

When you are at your lowest moment in life you can go to the Great Physician, which is almighty God. He really wants you to come to Him with your problems. It seems from our text that David, the psalmist, was truly at a low point and sorely vexed, unable to sleep, unquenchable tears, consumed with grief and surrounded by enemies, who were the workers of iniquity. David needed help; he recognized it; he turned to the Lord; and he reveals this glowing testimony: *"The LORD hath heard my supplication; the LORD will receive my prayer."* So, the next time you are at that low point in your life, try taking it to the Lord. He is the Great Helper, who receives our prayers and gives help.

-CAR

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



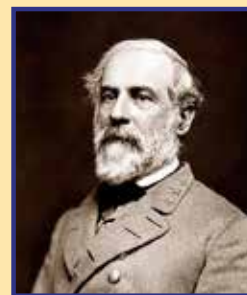
The new book by Dr. Thomas M. Strouse entitled *Jehovah Saves: A Commentary on the Book of Isaiah* is available for purchase. The book is an effort to exegete the contents of all sixty-six chapters of Isaiah, resulting in 508 pages of commentary with 746 footnotes chocked full of word studies, grammatical

explanations, and theological teachings. It reflects over forty years of study, research, and reflection from the author. Available now! \$30.00

Quotes From the Past:

Robert E. Lee

A Christian General of the CSA
1807-1870



Robert E. Lee

"My experience through life has convinced me that, while moderation and temperance in all things are commendable and beneficial, abstinence from spirituous liquors is the best safeguard of morals and health."

of perdition" (II Thes. 2:3). He will deceive the world enslaving multitudes who take his mark of 666. Death and destruction will be his "final solution." Coterminous with the Antichrist's appearance will be "the catching away" of the Lord's redeemed to meet Christ in the air, as Paul prophesied, saying, "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words" (I Thes. 4:16-18). When the Lord finishes with His judgment on the world, the devil, the flesh, and all wicked sinners, He will create a New Heaven and New Earth "wherein dwelleth righteousness" (II Pet. 3:13). Until that time, the Apostle Paul gave instructions for the Lord's assemblies within wicked societies in this fallen world, saying, "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; 4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (I Tim. 2:1-4).

Grow in Grace for Women

Proverbs 22:7 The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower [is] servant to the lender.

Reflection: Is it possible to be good stewards for the Lord if we are in financial debt?

What is the Lord's will for us regarding finances? **To Live beyond our means?**

Is it okay to spend money not budgeted? **Charge Card use?**

Should we promise money? **Commit from what we do not have?**

What does a borrower being a servant to the lender mean?

To what institution does the Lord want us to sow our finances?

What causes financial debt? Lust of the flesh? Lust of the eyes? Or Pride?

Do you buy what you do not need? Do you overspend on things that are not necessary? What can you think of that would be considered wasteful spending in your household?

How does the enemy get a foothold into our families when we are financially overburdened?

Have you been a good steward of what God has given?

Luke 16:1 And he said also unto his disciples, There was a certain rich man, which had a steward; and the same was accused unto him that he had wasted his goods.

Luke 16:2 And he called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward.

Are you giving the Lord His required tithe to your local church above all else?

1 Corinthians 16:2 Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

Challenge: Memorize **Proverbs 22:7**. Strive diligently to free yourself from financial slavery, being content with what the Lord has provided. Make a list of your debt and ask yourself if it is fulfilling your lust or a necessity? What are specific changes you will make today?

THE BOOK CORNER

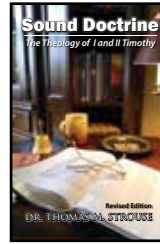
The Book Corner

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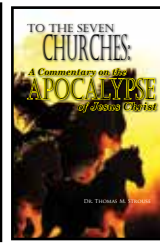
Welcome Landon Matthew!

The Book Corner

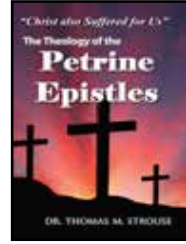
These Books may be purchased through **Bible Baptist Church**:
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I & II Timothy
\$20.00



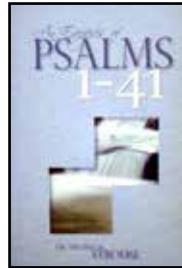
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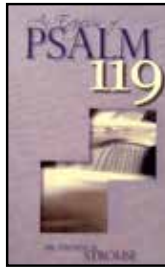
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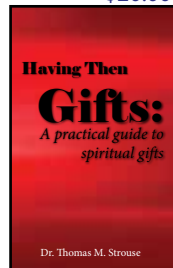
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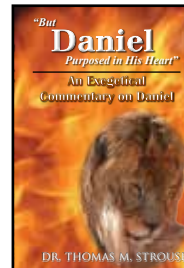
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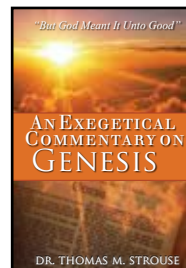
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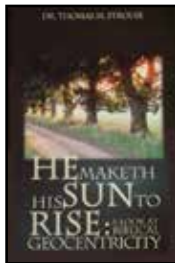
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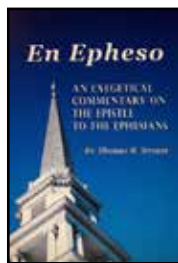
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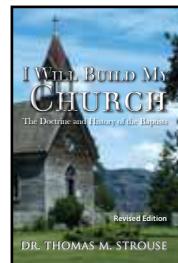
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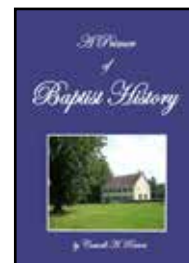
En Epheso
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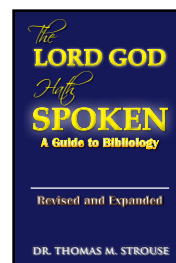
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WELCOME LONDON MATTHEW STROUSE!

Ryan and Christy Strouse of BBC welcomed their newest baby boy, Landon Matthew Strouse on September 9 at 10:59 pm. He weighed 7 lbs 8 oz and is 20 inches long.



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

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