

# BBC UPDATE

## BAPTIST HERITAGE CONFERENCE



Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

On September 28, 2019, Dr. Thomas Strouse spoke at Bible Baptist Church in Nashua, NH, on the subject of Baptists and Heresies. Pastor Steve Bates was the host pastor, along with his gracious wife Stephanie, as about 75-80 church members and visitors from several sister churches attended. Dr. and Mrs. Strouse enjoyed their time in the beautiful and spacious new church building. The interest was great as the topics of “The Heretical Interpretation of Baptist History,” “The Heretical Development of the Universal Invisible Church Theory,” and the following were covered.



BBC Update

Vol. 10 Num. 20

## THE HERETICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

### INTRODUCTION

The enemy of God and man, Satan, has never started a biblical, New Testament, Baptist assembly! Any biblical assembly in the dispensation of the *ἐκκλησία* has been started exclusively by the Head and the Foundation or Rock of the church, the Lord Jesus Christ. The Devil is the great deceiver of mankind as he initially demonstrated and constantly practices. The LORD gave truth first and Satan perverted it. Error, perversion, and heresy always follow truth. The impetus for the beginning of the Roman Catholic Church (RCC) started with the Edict of Milan in AD 313 under the aegis of the Roman Emperor Constantine and a group of apostate bishops in works-salvation churches, culminating with the Edict of Thessalonica in AD 380. The RCC never was biblical and never became biblical. It was never “a good church gone bad.” It was a perverted movement concocted and energized by Satan and the fruit of it demonstrates this condemnation. The RCC was organized around the Error of Baptismal Regeneration and the Error of Ecclesiasticism.

### THE ERROR OF BAPTISMAL REGENERATION

The Apostle Paul had started the Galatian churches on his first missionary journey (Acts 13-14).

Around AD 49 he received a report that these churches were on the verge of embracing heresy. He stated, saying, *“I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ”* (Gal. 1:6-7). The Galatian churches were entertaining the heresy *“Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved”* (Acts 15:1), and Paul condemned this error (see Gal. 5:6; 6:15; also Rom. 4:8-10), saying *“And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased”* (Gal. 5:11). The Bible is replete with the doctrine that salvation is through faith alone and not through works (Rom. 3:26-31), and is summarized succinctly by Paul, saying, *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast”* (Eph. 2:8-9). Prior to AD 70, Christianity was primarily Jewish (e.g., Jam. 1:1; I Pet. 1:1) and works-salvation heresy within was the practice of circumcision. After AD 70, Christianity became primarily gentile (e.g., Rom. 11; Rev. 1-3) and works-salvation heresy came in the form of baptismal regeneration, not in the form of circumcision.

The apostolic fathers began to teach the heresy of bap-

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tismal regeneration. Ignatius (AD 35-108) argued, saying, “For our God, Jesus Christ, was, according to the appointment of God, conceived in the womb by Mary, of the seed of David, but by the Holy Ghost. He was born and **baptized, that by His passion He might purify the water**” (*Epistle to the Ephesians*, 18).<sup>1</sup> In the *Epistle of Barnabas* (2nd century) the author stated, “Let us inquire if the Lord was careful to make a revelation in advance concerning the water and the cross. Concerning the water it was written with regard to Israel how they will not receive **the baptism which brings forgiveness of sins** but will supply another for themselves...We **descend into the water full of sins and uncleanness**, and we **ascend bearing reverence in our heart** and having hope in Jesus in our spirit” (11:1, 8, 11).<sup>2</sup>

In the *Shepherd of Hermas* (2nd century) the writer stated, “Your life **was saved and will be saved through water**” (Vision III, iii, 3).<sup>3</sup> Again, the author avers, “I have heard, sir, from some teachers that there is **no other repentance except that one when we descended into the water and received the forgiveness of our former sins.**” He said to me, ‘You heard correctly, for it is so. He who has received forgiveness of sins ought to sin no more but to live in purity’” (Mandate IV, iii. 1).<sup>4</sup>

In the *Didache* (c. AD 125), the author stated concerning baptism that it should be done “in running water. If you do not have running water, baptize in other water. If you are not able in cold, then in warm. If you do not have either, pour out water three times on the head.” The *Didache* continued urging candidate and baptizer

“to fast beforehand a day or two” (line 7).<sup>5</sup>

Justin (2nd century) stated that one “**might obtain in water the forgiveness of past sins...this washing is called illumination**” (*First Apology*, 61).<sup>6</sup> Theophilus (2nd century) wrote *Apology to Autolytus* about the created living things in water on the first day of creation were a sign “that men were going to **receive repentance and forgiveness of sins through water and the ‘washing of regeneration’**” (II. xvi).<sup>7</sup>

Irenaeus (AD 130-202) affirmed, “Now, this is what faith does for us, as the elders, the disciples of the apostles, have handed down to us. First of all, it admonishes us to remember that **we have received baptism for remission of sins** in the name of God the Father, and in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God...and in the Holy Spirit of God; and that **this baptism...is rebirth unto God**” (*Proof of the Apostolic Preaching*, 3).<sup>8</sup> Clement of Alexandria (AD 150-215) stated, “**Being baptized** we are illuminated, being illuminated we are made sons, being made sons **we are perfected we are made immortal**...It is the washing through which we are cleansed of our sins, the grace by which the penalties for our sins are removed...” (*Instructor* I. vi. 3-26. 2; 30. 2;32.1).<sup>9</sup>

After AD 70, unregenerate Gentile bishops began to perpetuate the heresy of works-salvation through the instrumentality of baptism.<sup>10</sup> The “Baptist” churches that they shepherded became the foundational “churches” for the RCC movement. First the meaning of baptism changed and then the mode. Today, the RCC practices any mode of “baptism” with the meaning that baby baptism saves! *Article Continued on Page 3*

<sup>1</sup>The quotes in this section come from A. Cleveland Coxe, ed. *The Ante-Nicene Fathers*, Vols. I-III (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publ. Co., 1981), *loc cit.*

<sup>2</sup>*Loc cit.*

<sup>3</sup>*Loc cit.*

<sup>4</sup>*Loc cit.*

<sup>5</sup>*Loc cit.*

<sup>6</sup>*Loc cit.*

<sup>7</sup>*Loc cit.*

<sup>8</sup>*Loc cit.*

<sup>9</sup>*Loc cit.*

<sup>10</sup>Diotrephes was an example of an unsaved “Bishop” who had rejected John’s canonical Scriptures and had not seen God (III Jn. 1:9-11).

### THE ERROR OF ECCLESIASTICISM

The Error of Ecclesiasticism or Religious Hierarchicalism developed around pragmatic and religious notions with no Scriptural support. First, there was the humanistic notion of the supremacy of Bishops. For instance, Apostate churches began to insist that bishops were the *esse* (essence) rather than the *bene esse* (good of the essence) of the church. Cyprian stated, “*The church is in the bishop, and the bishop is in the church, and if anyone is not with the bishop he is not in the church.*”<sup>11</sup>

Irenaeus posited the clear statement of Apostolic Succession, saying, “*But since it would be too long to enumerate in such a volume as this the successions of all the churches, we shall confound all those who, in whatever manner, whether through self-satisfaction or vainglory, or through blindness and wicked opinion, assemble other than where it is proper, by pointing out here the successions of the bishops of greatest and most ancient church known to all, founded and organized at Rome by the two most glorious apostles, Peter and Paul—that church which has the tradition and the faith with which comes down to us after having been announced to men by the apostles. For with this Church, because of its superior origin, all churches must agree, that is, all the faithful in the whole world. And it is in her that the faithful everywhere have maintained the apostolic tradition*” (*Against Heresies*, 3:3:2).<sup>12</sup>

Ignatius perpetuated the notion of three church offices, saying, “*See that you all follow the **bishop**, even as Jesus Christ does the Father, and the **presbytery** as you would the apostles; and reverence the **deacons**, as being the institution of God. Let no man do anything connected with the Church without the bishop*” (*Epistle to the Smyrnaeans*, 8).<sup>13</sup> Secondary bishops became assistants. The Emperor (Augustus) became the *pontifex maximus* (“the great bridge builder”) uniting Roman man to Roman deities such as Mithras in the *pleroma*. Later the RCC employed this term for the bishop of Rome as “*the Pontiff*

*who pontificated.*”

Apostates began to corrupt the biblical text of the NT and perpetuated Religious Territorialism in key passages. Corruption of the biblical text fostered the apostate churches to think in terms of territorial churches. For instance the NIV reads “Then the **church** throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened” whereas the KJV reads “*Then had the **churches** rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria*” (Acts 9:31). Another textual corruption that attempted to lead to Territorialism was the omission of *en Epheso* in (Eph. 1:1). Bishops began to exploit the concept and practice of *paroikia* (“parish”). Senior bishops, especially in larger churches, became authoritative over younger bishops. By the 3rd century this diocesan system was “*quite fully established.*”<sup>14</sup>

Irenaeus and others recognized the suitability of the Church of Rome as headquarters of Christianity for the following reasons: 1) Rome was capital of Roman Empire. 2) Rome was the chief city since “all roads lead to Rome.” 3) Rome had ideal geographical setting. 4) Rome had the prestige of receiving Paul’s most doctrinal letter. 5) Supposedly Linus was in apostolic succession after Peter in Rome (II Tim 4:21).

The strong connection between church and state finalized Ecclesiasticism culminating in the RCC. After Constantine became emperor in 306, he sought supernatural help against enemies for victories. In 312 he prayed and received the vision of the cross in the heavens with the inscription *In hoc signo vinces* (“in this sign you will conquer”). He issued the Edict of Milan (AD 313) which allowed for the toleration of Christianity. This was the practical beginning of the RCC. Constantine began to have his children taught only by Christians. He allowed wills to benefit the churches. He began to spend money building church buildings. In 325, he called for about 300 bishops to settle the Arian heresy (Jesus Christ was

*Article Continued on Page 4*

<sup>11</sup>Coxe, loc cit.

<sup>12</sup>Henry Bettenson, *Documents of the Christian Church* (NY: Oxford University Press, 1957), pp. 95-97.

<sup>13</sup>Coxe, loc cit.

<sup>14</sup>Henry C. Vedder, *A Short History of the Baptists* (Valley Forge, PA: The Judson Press, 1969), p. 54.

## ARTICLE CONTINUED

God's highest creation but not eternal deity) in the first ecumenical council at Nicea (Nicene Council). The Roman Empire, under the leadership of Constantine, merged with the apostate Catholic Churches to form the Holy Roman Catholic Church (RE + CC + RCC). In 380, the Edict of Thessalonica officially ordered all Roman Empire subjects to profess the faith of the bishops of Rome and of Alexandria making Nicene Christianity the state religion of the Roman Empire.

### CONCLUSION

As the RCC was organized around the Error of Baptismal Regeneration and the Error of Ecclesiasticism it was apostate from the very beginning. Later the Protestant Reformation<sup>15</sup> broke from the RCC (AD 1517) primarily because of papism, and perpetuated the same Errors of Baptismal Regeneration and of Ecclesiasticism in Protestant denominations.

<sup>15</sup>Roman Catholics wanted to reform in the RCC and departed as Reformers. Later they protested the intrusion of RCC in their geographical domains and were known as Protestants.



## GEOCENTRIC PRESENTATION

At the invitation of Pastor Dave Short and Maranatha Baptist Church in Agawam, MA, Dr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Strouse visited and ministered to the congregation. Dr. Strouse brought his orrery and gave a presentation from Scripture on the subject of Geo-Centricity, using his syllabus entitled "Biblical Geo-Centricity Papers." The Bible consistently and clearly teaches the geo-centric perspective of creation, revealing that the earth is the stationary center of the Heavens and Earth. Although the Lord is dogmatic in this Bible-centered truth, Satan wants to cause sinners and saints alike to accept the false perspective of A-Centricity (there is no center because nothing is special in this big random universe of the explosive freak of evolution), and so he postulated the view of Helio-Centricity as a bridge to the nihilistic perspective of A-Centricity (Geo-Centricity>>>Helio-Centricity>>>A-Centricity). Why is this important? The precious Lord Jesus Christ said, *"If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?"* (Jn. 3:12), and again He said about His Father, *"That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust"* (Mt. 5:45). Who is our ultimate authority: the God of Scripture or the atheistic evolutionist?

2009

2019



# BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

## 10th Anniversary Weekend

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>

1:00-1:45 PM	Introduction and Challenge: Dr. Thomas M. Strouse
1:45-2:00 PM	<i>Special Music</i>
2:00-2:45 PM	Preaching Challenge - Pastor Scott Blair
2:45-3:00 PM	<i>Special Music</i>
3:00-3:45 PM	Preaching Challenge - Dr. Cas Reeves
3:45-4:00 PM	<i>Special Music</i>
4:00-4:45 PM	Preaching Challenge - Pastor Jerry Akers
4:45-5:15 PM	Fellowship

*\* No Nursery \**

### BACI GRILL

Rose Garden Room  
134 Berlin Rd., Cromwell, CT

**6:00-10:00 PM**

Dinner . Special Music . Testimonies

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>

10:00-10:45 AM	Sunday School	Pastor Scott Blair
11:00-11:45 AM	Preaching Service	Pastor Jerry Akers
12:00- 1:30 PM	Lunch	
1:30 - 2:30 PM	Preaching Service	Mr. Ryan Strouse

**RSVP BY NOVEMBER 15, 2019**

drtms\_bbts@juno.com



Pastor Cas Reeves

## REPORT FROM THE PHILIPPINES

On the 23rd of September, I departed Binghamton, New York, arriving in Manila, Philippines, Friday evening the 24th. Several hours before my arrival there had been an earthquake and a typhoon in the regions north of Quezon City which were felt all the way to Manila. My only experience was some turbulence in the air as we flew over the typhoon. After picking me up at the airport, and a 3 1/2 hour ride, mainly because of the traffic, Dr. Raquintan and I arrived at the church. The normal ride from the airport is 45 minutes when traffic is good.

Following a good night's rest, Dr. Raquintan and I met some of the church men at a restaurant for some fellowship and a meal. On Sunday, I preached at Cornerstone Baptist Church in the morning and in Pompana in the evening, which is a several hours ride north. On Monday, the modules classes started with 15 men, one coming from as far as Sidney, Australia, and another from the island of Samar in the Philippines. Dr. Raquintan taught a module class on Greek Grammar in the morning and I taught the Book of James in the evening. Friday evening, following the end of classes, most of the men departed for their homes; the rest left on Saturday.



Saturday was a day of rest. The Raquintan family took me to an art museum and gardens. The architecture was old Spanish and very impressive and the garden grounds were beautiful. We then went to a restaurant for lunch, followed by shopping.

Again, on Sunday I preached both morning and evening services at Cornerstone. On the first Sunday that I was there, I presented Dr. Raquintan with his copy of his bound dissertation, which he had presented for his Doctor of Theology degree in May of this year. This presentation was on behalf of Dr. Thomas M. Strouse and the



Bible Baptist Theological Seminary in Cromwell, Connecticut. Following the morning service on the 22nd, the church held a meal with all kinds of good food, cake, and ice cream to congratulate Dr. Raquintan. Not only was the food excellent, so was the fellowship with everyone.

On Monday morning we left the church at 3:00 AM for the airport while the traffic was at a minimum. We arrived at the airport in Manila in 45 minutes. At 8:00 AM I departed for Tokyo and then Detroit where my son Jake, his family, and my wife were awaiting my arrival. After spending some time in Michigan and Ohio, I arrived home Thursday afternoon.

The trip and the time there was excellent, for which I give the Lord all the glory.



Respectfully, Dr. Caswell A. Reeves

# GROW IN GRACE DEVOTIONAL FOR WOMEN

Grow In Grace

7

Devotional for Women

## FORTY DAYS

**Jonah 3:4** And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.

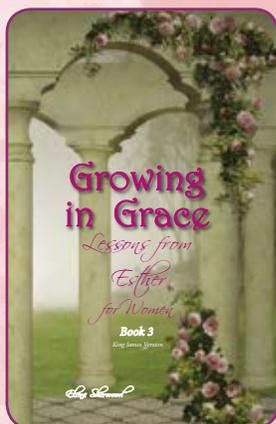
5 So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.

**Reflection:** Jonah now is ready to obey the LORD. He does as the LORD asks and states that Nineveh has 40 days to judgment. We don't know if there was more to his message but we do know they listened. One wonders why **ALL** those in Nineveh believed Jonah? Did Jonah have any experience with being on the other end of the LORD's judgment? Would he have delivered this message from his head or heart? Did they know the history of the 40 day flood? Of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah? Had the LORD been working in their hearts in preparation? Perhaps the mariners told them their testimony?

The number 40 is significant in the Bible, the LORD uses it often times as judgment, testing, or trial, throughout the Bible, such as: **Genesis 7:12, Exodus 16:35, Judges 13:1.**

**Challenge:** When you think back on your own salvation experience, how can you relate to the Ninevehites? From whom did you receive the message of salvation, and did he or she have a conviction that came from first hand understanding? How had the LORD been working in your heart. How can you use this account to deliver the Gospel to those whom the LORD has put around you?

If you would like to receive Grow in Grace morning devotions emailed to you Monday through Friday, please send an email to: [Elenas6259@gmail.com](mailto:Elenas6259@gmail.com)



## GROWING IN GRACE: DEVOTIONAL FOR WOMEN ON BOOK OF ESTHER

Bible Baptist Church has published the third book in its devotional series for women. If you would like to receive a complimentary copy, please contact the author,

Elena Sherwood, at:

[Elenas6259@gmail.com](mailto:Elenas6259@gmail.com).

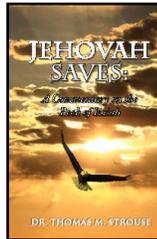


*Pastor Strouse with Jim Lawrence, the guest speaker at Galilean Baptist Church's Men Retreat.*

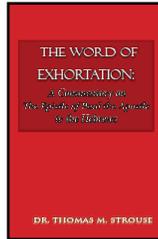
# THE BOOK CORNER

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

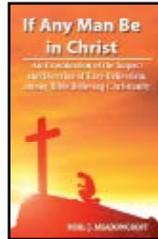
[drtms\\_bbts@juno.com](mailto:drtms_bbts@juno.com)



Isaiah \$20.00



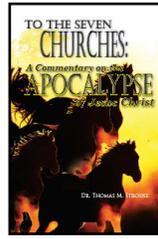
Hebrews \$30.00



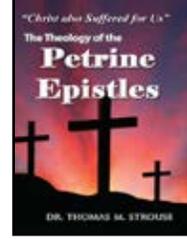
If Any Man Be ... \$10.00



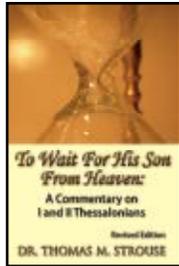
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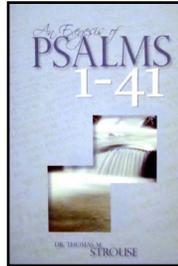
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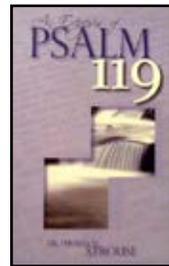
Peter \$20.00



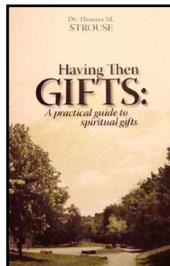
I & II Thessalonians \$20.00



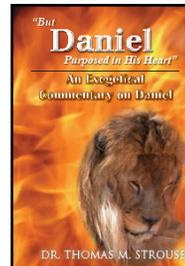
Psalms 1 - 41 \$20.00



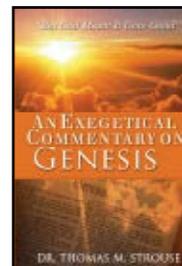
Psalm 119 \$20.00



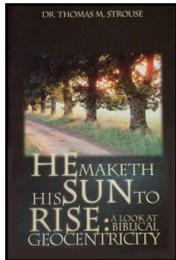
Spiritual Gifts \$8.00



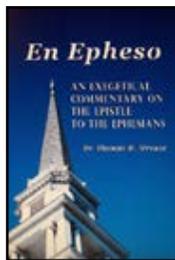
Daniel \$20.00



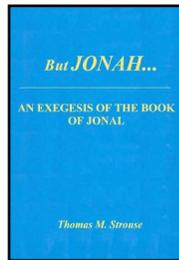
Genesis \$20



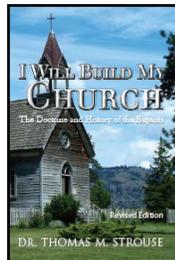
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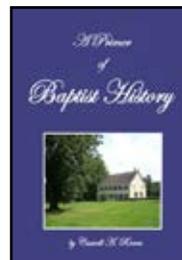
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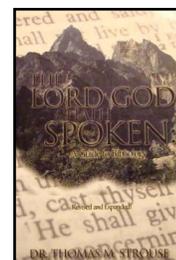
Jonah \$10.00



I Will Build My Church \$15.00



A Primer of Baptist History \$20.00



The Lord God Hath Spoken \$15.00

## BBC 2019 SCHEDULE

**Oct. 13-16**

Willow Grove Baptist Church  
Waynesburg, PA  
Bible Conference

**Nov. 15**

BBTS Fall Lecture Series  
Courtyard Marriott, Cromwell

**Dec. 6-8**

Bible Baptist Church  
Tenth Anniversary Conference

## Quotes From the Past:



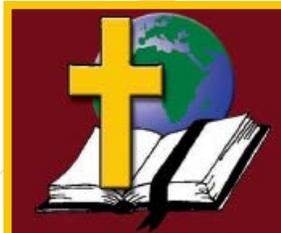
**John Bunyan  
1628-1688**

Baptist Preacher  
and Author

*"If we have not quiet in our minds, outward comfort will do no more for us than a golden slipper on a gouty foot."*

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

[drtms\\_bbts@juno.com](mailto:drtms_bbts@juno.com)



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