



# BBC UPDATE

## BIBLE BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY LECTURE SERIES



Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

### EXCERPT:

#### *“The Epistle of James: Fruits Not Roots!”*

In the providential working of the Lord GOD He used man’s evil to carry out the divine plan of church planting.<sup>1</sup> Scripture states, *“And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles”* (Acts 8:1). As Jewish Baptist church members faced persecution in the form of physical (slaughter, beatings, and imprisonment) and financial (loss of possessions and income), they scattered with their families for their lives. The scattered Jewish Christians from the Jerusalem church became known as the Diaspora (διασπορά).<sup>2</sup> The Lord Jesus experienced the scattering of His *“little flock”* (Lk. 12:32) as well when persecution arose. He cited Zechariah’s prophecy and said, *“All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered”* (Mk. 14:27; see Zech. 13:7). The God-Man Jesus, the son of Mary, chose one who had pertinent family training and biblical instruction to minister ultimately to the Jerusalem assembly and her dispersed church members. James (Ἰάκωβος *Iakobos* [42x]), the step-brother of Jesus, being well-grounded in the theological precepts and the illustrative narrative of the *Tanak*, wrote his encouraging *Epistle of James* *“to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad”*<sup>3</sup> (Jam. 1:1). In his un-saved state until after the resurrection,<sup>4</sup> James nevertheless gleaned knowledge, experience, and a growing burden as God was developing this special brother for post-conversion Christian service. He became one of the three pillars in the church of Jerusalem (Gal. 2:9).

Unlike Peter, *“the apostle of the circumcision”* (Gal. 2:7) with the gift of prophecy, James, the second Bishop of Jerusalem, employed his gift of exhortation to encourage all, especially the ecclesiological groups of the recent *Diaspora*. James had a heart for those who were experiencing persecution, ridicule, rejection, and poverty for identifying with the Lord Jesus Christ. This *“servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ”* (Jam. 1:1) implemented *“Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer”* (Rom. 12:12), as he exhorted the churches *“throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria”* (Acts 9:31) and beyond (Mt. 28:19-20). His message was not one of evangelism but of edification. Because of James’ personal background, he was well-versed in *“the principles of the doctrine of Christ”* (Heb. 6:1), even prior to conversion. He realized that biblical Christianity was not mere knowledge of biblical facts, but a changed life which produced fruit. Likewise with the audience of his *Epistle*, evidence of a changed life must evince from every church member. The scattered Baptist churches needed to move on from dealing with *“the root of salvation”* (i.e., **faith**), but now to *“the fruit of salvation”* (i.e., **works**)!

<sup>1</sup>“Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain” (Ps. 76:10).

<sup>2</sup>Jehovah predicted that dispersion would be the lot of His people, saying, *“And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone”* (Dt. 28:64).

<sup>3</sup>The noun διασπορά *diaspora* occurs also in Jn. 7:35 and I Pet. 1:1.

<sup>4</sup>Cf. *“For neither did his brethren believe in him”* (Jn. 7:5) and *“After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles”* (I Cor. 15:7).

On the weekend of December 7-8, 2019, Bible Baptist Church is anticipating her Tenth Anniversary of biblically-authorized existence by the will of God. Having a nucleus of twenty-seven Baptist church members from area churches, Bible Baptist Church organized under the headship of Dr. Thomas M. Strouse as a chartered New Testament assembly known as Bible Baptist Church on Dec. 4, 2009. On Saturday, Dec. 7, between 1 PM and 4 PM, keynote speakers for the weekend including Pastor Jerry Akers, Pastor Scott Blair, Dr. Cas Reeves, and Pastor Thomas Strouse will challenge Bible Baptist Church about her past, present, and prospect. After the dinner at 6 PM, church members will give testimony about their involvement in BBC. Please make plans for this Christ-honoring weekend as details unfold. Please RSVP by November 15, 2019.

## BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH MEMORY LANE

### Early Update Report

*“Newly Approved Location of BBC & BBTS in Cromwell, Connecticut”*

We praise the Lord that the zoning and planning commission of Cromwell, CT granted Bible Baptist Church the opportunity to rent a facility in the city for religious worship and assembly, i.e., to house an independent Baptist church plant. The church building will house both Bible Baptist Church and Bible Baptist Theological Seminary. It is amazing to watch the Lord Jesus Christ orchestrate the planting of one of His assemblies in central Connecticut. He has led in every step, assembling together over ten family units and giving a physical location for this base of truth, Bible Baptist Church, “the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth” (I Tim. 3:15).

### Early Authentication Outline

*“The First Church Plant”*

Dr. Thomas M. Strouse, Pastor  
Mt. 16:18; Acts 2:47

Proposition: The Lord Jesus Christ founded, initiated, and organized the First Church Plant, which was an independent Baptist ἐκκλησία.

#### I. The Private Beginning of the First Church Plant

A. The Beginning of Baptism (Mt. 3:1 ff.).

B. The Beginning of Edification (Mt. 16:18).

1. First Apostles (Mt. 10:1 ff.; Eph. 2:20).

2. First Church Discipline (Mt. 18:16-18).

3. First Lord’s Supper (Mt. 26:26-30).

4. First giving of Great Commission (Mt. 28:19-20).

#### II. The Public Authentication of the First Church Plant

A. The Background of Pentecost Authentication.

1. Tabernacle was Authenticated (Ex. 40:34).

2. Solomonic Temple was Authenticated (I Ki. 8:10-11).

3. Millennial Temple will be Authenticated (Ezk. 43:4).

B. The Manifestation of Pentecost Authentication.

1. Baptism by Christ in the Spirit (Mt. 3:11; Acts 1:5; 2:1-4).

2. Temporary Tongues (Acts 2:4-13).

3. Unity around Doctrine (Acts 2:42).

#### III. The Perpetual Ministry of the First Church Plant

A. The Precept requiring the planting of Baptist Churches (Mt. 28:19-20).

B. The Practice of planting Baptist Churches (Acts 18:1 ff.).



## GOOD CONVICTIONS TO TEACH

Ten Scriptural convictions which every man should teach his family in order to protect them from destructive influences of wrong desires, false philosophies, and Satanic temptations.

- Pastor Cas Reeves*
1. The Bible is the inspired Word of God and the final authority for all issues of my life, 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
  2. My purpose in life is to seek God with my whole heart and to build my goals around His priorities, Deuteronomy 10:12, Ecclesiastes 12:13-14.
  3. My body is the living temple of God and must not be defiled by the lusts of the world, 1 Corinthians 6:14.
  4. My church must teach the foundational truths of the Bible in order to reinforce basic Biblical convictions, Acts 20:26-31.
  5. My children and grandchildren belong to God, and it is my responsibility to teach them Scriptural principles, godly character, and basic convictions, Psalm 127:3.
  6. My activities must never weaken the Scriptural convictions of another Christian, 1 Corinthians 8:9,13.
  7. My marriage is a life-long commitment to God and to my spouse, Ephesians 5:25-33.
  8. My money is a trust from God and must be earned and managed according to Scriptural principles, 1 Corinthians 10:31.
  9. My words must be in harmony with God's Word, especially when reproofing and restoring a Christian brother, John 17:17.
  10. My affections must be set on things above, not on things on the earth, Colossians 3:2. --CAR



*Pastor and Mrs. Strouse, along with Jeff Skorupski, had a blessed time at Willow Grove Baptist Church in Waynesburg, PA for their annual Bible Conference where Pastor Strouse presented on the book of Amos. Praise the Lord for the Blair family graciously hosting them.*



# GROW IN GRACE DEVOTIONAL FOR WOMEN

## WHO CAN TELL? REPENT: *nacham*

**Jonah 3:9** Who can tell if God will **turn** and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?

**10** And God saw their works, that they **turned** from their evil way; and God **repented** of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not. (emphasis added)

**Reflection:** Although Jonah was already a servant of God, we can see a picture of the Gospel in Jonah who went down to the deep in his sinful rebellion and with a repentant heart he cries out to the LORD. The Lord turns or changed His mind and He pardons Jonah giving Him life, with a new chance, a new direction, a new life of obedience.

In the following verse David also realized how the LORD used affliction in his life for good and obedience to Him:

**Psalms 119:67** Before I was afflicted I went astray; but now have I kept thy word.

We also see the word 'turn' is used several times in today's two verses which again is a condition of salvation for us and a benefit that we receive from the LORD when we receive His Grace. There are many that say the Bible has errors because the LORD cannot repent.

**Genesis 6:6** And it repented (**regret**) the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

**Exodus 32:14** And the LORD repented (**to change one's mind**) of the evil (**affliction**) which he thought to do unto his people.

**1 Samuel 15:11** It repenteth (**regret**) me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the LORD all night. (emphasis added)

The LORD is perfect and cannot, that is to say, does not repent like man. He is omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient, but He can change His mind and does feel regret. If the LORD was not capable to change His mind, why would we bother to pray?

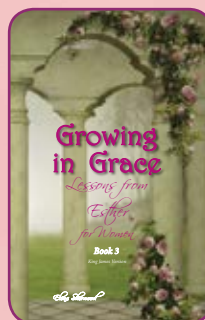
**Numbers 23:19** God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

**Note:** The LORD will never contradict His Words.

**Challenge:** When was the last time you regretted, changed your mind, or felt godly sorrow over your sin? Where in your life are you like Jonah before he turns from his disobedience? Where are you like Jonah after he turns from disobedience? What does your prayer life prove about what you believe regarding the LORD's ability to repent?

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

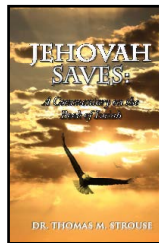


Bible Baptist Church has published the third book in its devotional series for women. If you would like to receive a complimentary copy, please contact the author, Elena Sherwood, at: [Elenas6259@gmail.com](mailto:Elenas6259@gmail.com).

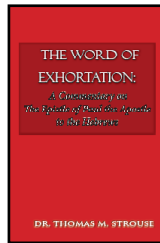
# THE BOOK CORNER

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

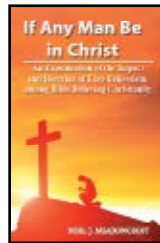
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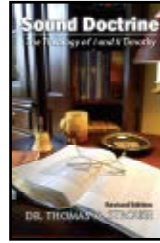
Isaiah \$20.00



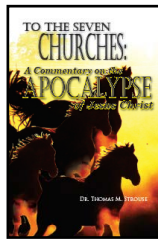
Hebrews \$30.00



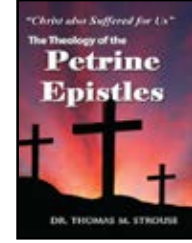
If Any Man Be ... \$10.00



I & II Timothy \$20.00



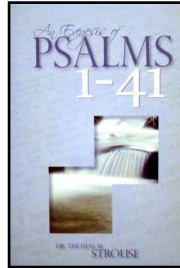
Revelation \$30.00



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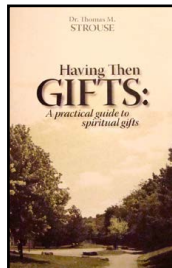
I & II Thessalonians \$20.00



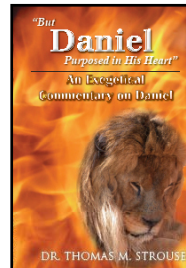
Psalms 1 - 41 \$20.00



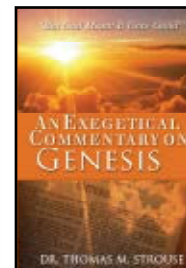
Psalm 119 \$20.00



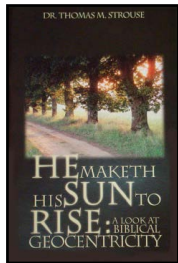
Spiritual Gifts \$8.00



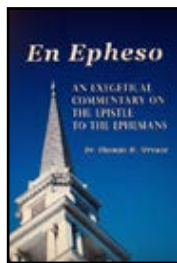
Daniel \$20.00



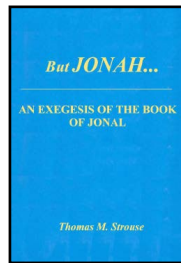
Genesis \$20



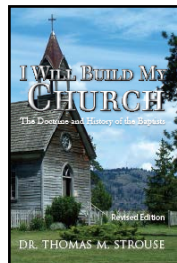
Geocentricity \$10.00



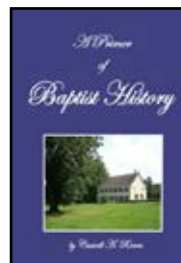
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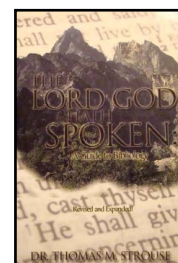
Jonah \$10.00



I Will Build My Church \$15.00



A Primer of Baptist History \$20.00



The Lord God Hath Spoken \$15.00

## BBC 2019 SCHEDULE

**Nov. 15**

BBTS Fall Lecture Series  
Courtyard Marriott,  
Cromwell

**Dec. 6-8**

Bible Baptist Church  
Tenth Anniversary  
Conference



The BBC children enjoy a beautiful fall day.

## Quotes From the Past:



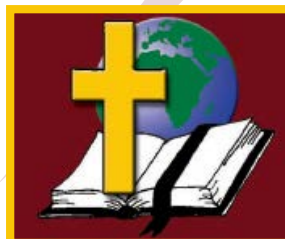
**John Bunyan**  
1628-1688

Baptist Preacher  
and Author

*“Words easy to be understood do often hit the mark; when high and learned ones do only pierce the air.”*

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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