



# BBC UPDATE

## Fifth Anniversary of BBC

Dr. Thomas Strouse



Dr. Thomas Strouse

December marks the fifth anniversary of Bible Baptist Church and Bible Baptist Theological Seminary. In December of 2009, the Lord led six families to start Bible Baptist Church and

continue the seminary ministry in Cromwell, CT. Twenty-seven people signed the church charter and covenanted together to establish BBC. The assembly met in homes for about six weeks until a building in Cromwell was granted the official status for religious worship. As the truth of Scripture went forth, the Lord blessed the membership by setting additional Christians, many through baptism, within the assembly, reaching a recent high of fifty-one members, and has allowed the church to operate consistently in the black through tithes, offerings, and special gifts. Bible Baptist Church has been involved in sending out three families to start independent Baptist churches in Wyoming, Idaho, and Utah. Bible Baptist Theological Seminary, a ministry under Bible Baptist Church, has expanded this biblical ministry of training men in the Word of God, having modules in new areas of Europe and Asia as well as offering online seminary courses world-wide. We thank the Lord Jesus Christ for His blessings, and trust that He will continue to bless Bible Baptist Church.



Above: The BBC Church Family in March, 2010

## BBC Mailer Sent Out to Middletown Residents

Residents in Middletown, CT will be receiving postcards inviting them to visit Bible Baptist Church. Middletown borders Cromwell to the south. Pray there will be much fruit from this mailing.



Above: The Middletown Post Office.

Right: Seven Boxes filled with the postcard mailers.



**You're Invited to Bible Baptist Church**  
A Family Friendly Local Church

*Where the TRUTH is preached*

Join us on December 21 for the **BBC Youth Christmas Program**. The youth of Bible Baptist Church will be presenting the Christmas assembly and song on **Sunday, December 21 at 1:30 PM**. Join us for this special program honoring the birth of our Savior!

Bible Baptist Church is also home to **Bible Baptist Theological Seminary**. Graduates will receive a thorough knowledge of Scripture, recognizing its biblical implementation in the local assembly, and be required to display biblical conviction in carrying out all the counsel of God. Degrees offered include Bachelor of Divinity, Masters of Biblical Studies and Theology and Doctorate of Ministry and Theology. Both semester and module options are available.

40 Country Squire Rd.  
Cromwell, CT 06416  
(860) 613-2096  
www.bbc-cromwell.org

**You're Invited to Bible Baptist Church**

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth."  
- John 1:4

Local Postal Customer  
Middletown, CT 06457

Service Times  
• Sunday School 10:00 AM  
• Sunday Morning Service 11:00 AM  
• Sunday Afternoon Service 1:30 PM  
• Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:00 PM

40 Country Squire Rd.  
Cromwell, CT 06416  
(860) 613-2096  
www.bbc-cromwell.org

# CHRISTMAS BANQUET

Christmas Banquet

2

Announcement

## BBC Christmas Banquet



You are cordially invited to the  
**5th Annual BBC/BBTS  
Christmas Banquet**  
at Bible Baptist Church  
**Friday Dec. 5, 2014 from 5-9 PM.**

The Banquet is for all church  
members of BBC and Bible Baptist  
Theological Seminary alumni,  
seminarians, or friends!

### Gift Exchange

Part of the evening's activities will entail a gift exchange (\$10 range). Each attendee should bring a wrapped gift for this traditional and spirited event!

### Nursery

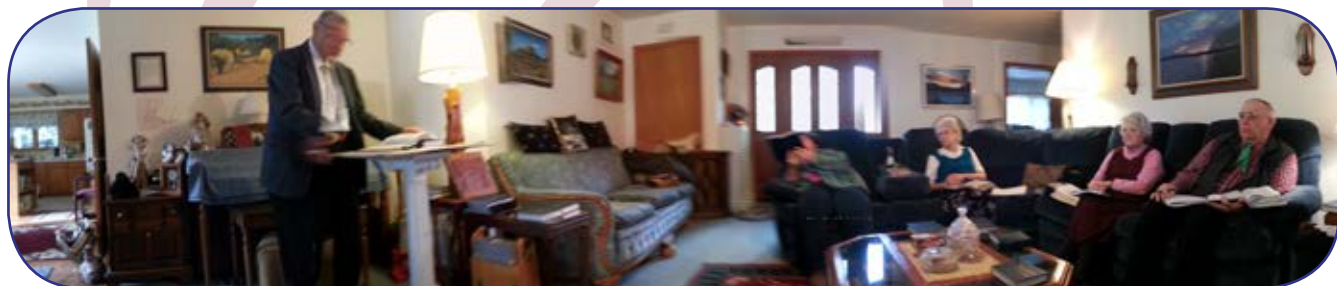
A nursery will be provided however, it is important that you indicate how many children will be using the nursery when you RSVP.

### RSVP

Please RSVP to:  
[drtms\\_bbts@juno.com](mailto:drtms_bbts@juno.com)  
by **December 1, 2014.**

## Bible Baptist Church in Cody, WY

*BBC Member Jeff Skorupski visited Pastor Harold and Edith Davidson at Bible Baptist Church in Cody, WY. The Davidsons have planted a house church in Cody.*





## BBTS Graduates in Action

BBTS Graduate Emmanuel Tanierla provided this report from Iloilo City, Philippines.

*Greetings from Garden Bible Baptist Church - Iloilo City, Philippines.*

*God has been good and faithful. He has given us opportunity to visit the two Island churches in Guimaras: Impact Baptist Bible Church in Nauway Island and Union Baptist Bible Church in Unisan Island. The ministry at Impact Baptist Bible Church, the results of the late Pastor Villafuerte, is now under Pastor Randy Aquillo. I was able to preach at their 5th Anniversary and thanksgiving Service. We had a very good service.*

*Pastor Fernandez and Pastor Gallego then accompanied me to Impact Baptist Bible Church the Island of Nauway with some young people. Please pray for these ministries.*

*In Christ,*

*Pastor Tanierla*

## BBTS GRADUATES IN ACTION



*Pastor Tanierla's ministry team which traveled to Gulmaras Islands, Philippines*



*Above & Right: Travel to Nauway, a small Island with around 500 person in population, involved several modes of transportation!!*



*Pastors Fernandez and Tanierla standing in front of the Union Baptist Bible Church Building*



*The children's class at Union Baptist Bible Church*

# ARTICLE

## Article:

### A New Name Written Down

Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

Continued from Nov. 15 Issue

#### THE AGE OF ACCOUNTABILITY

This Scripture (Rom. 7:9) is the classic biblical statement for the doctrine of the “Age of Accountability.” In other words, after Saul reached the age of accountability he subsequently confessed the sin that confirmed his old nature, and received forgiveness and salvation. Sinners do not go to Hell because of their adamic nature, but because they fail to repent of the sins that confirm their old nature. Consequently, infants and mentally impaired who die prematurely do not go to Hell for their old nature, since they have not knowingly confirmed their old nature with knowledgeable sins. Since everyone conceived is written in the Book of Life, every sinner must repent of the sins that confirm his old nature once he reaches the age of spiritual accountability to avoid being blotted out of the Book of Life at death. Did not Paul attest to the human responsibility of preserving one’s eternal enrollment by stating, “Therefore I endure all things for the elect’s sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory” (II Tim. 2:10). How do the elect obtain their salvation? It is not by works (Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 4:1-5; Gal.2:16), but by meeting the Lord’s conditions of repentance and faith!

Some first century apostates were blotted out of the Book of Life prior to their death, the Lord warned. For instance, those who had committed the first century sin of the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost were blotted out prior to their death, the precious Saviour warned, saying, “Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. <sup>32</sup> And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but

whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come” (Mt. 12:31-32). Also, those original heretics who tampered with the words of Scripture were promised sure expungement as soon as they sinned and presumably prior to death (Rev. 22:19). Furthermore, a future group will be eradicated from the Book of Life “when” they favorably behold the Antichrist’s name, number, and/or person (vide Rev. 17:8).

#### THE LAKE OF FIRE

The expression “the Lake of Fire” (τὴν λίμνην τοῦ πυρός) occurs four times in Scripture, namely in Rev. 19:20; 20:10, 14, and 15. Each successive passage advances truth about the Lake of Fire, including the fact 1) that it burns with brimstone, 2) that it is a place of eternal torment, 3) that death and hell (ὁ ᾗδης; vide Lk. 16:23 ff.) will be cast into it as the second death, and 4) that it is the eternal alternative to the Book of Life. This place of eternal judgmental torment was not the Lord’s original plan. When He finished the creation of heaven and earth, Scripture gave divine commentary, stating, “And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day” (Gen. 1:31). Furthermore, the Lord Jesus Christ revealed those for whom the Lake of Fire was originally intended, saying, “Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels” (Mt. 25:41). Presumably after Lucifer’s early fall, Jehovah created the Lake of Fire exclusively for all of the fallen angels. By contrast, the heavenly kingdom was prepared for men, albeit believers, as the Lord declared, saying, “Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world” (Mt. 25:34). The unrepentant sinner will not end up in the place prepared for him—the heavenly kingdom, but instead will end up in the place not prepared for him—the Lake of Fire! Obviously, this biblical revelation effectively repudiates and invalidates the notion that God predestined the non-elect to eternal damnation.

Continued on Page 5





## CHRIST'S ATONEMENT

Paul developed the biblical doctrine of the universal “atonement”<sup>1</sup> (καταλλαγή)<sup>2</sup> of Christ by teaching that the Lord Jesus Christ provided reconciliation for all who through Adam’s sin needed reconciliation (Rom 5:11-18). He summarized this truth, affirming, “*For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe*” (I Tim. 4:10). Again, Paul stated, declaring, “*But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man*” (Heb. 2:9). His teaching harmonized with other biblical writers, such as Isaiah, who stated, “*All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all*” (Isa. 53:6). John declared the same theology, saying, “*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life*” (Jn. 3:16),<sup>3</sup> and “*And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world*” (I Jn. 2:2). Peter averred, saying, “*But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction*” (II Pet. 2:1). These are some of the classic passages that defend the universal atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ, advancing irrefragable proof for this scriptural tenet.

Therefore, since Christ died for all, and all were written in the Book of Life, all are elect. Christ is the Saviour of all men, especially the elect who believe since the elect must obtain their salvation.

<sup>1</sup> Although “atonement” is a *hapax legomena* in the KJV (Rom. 5:11), it is a theologically significant word since it literally means “at-one-ment” referring the singular redemptive work of Christ on the Cross to reconcile man to God.

<sup>2</sup> The noun occurs also in Rom. 11:15 (“reconciling”), II Cor. 5:18 (“reconciliation”), and II Cor. 5:19 (“reconciliation”).

<sup>3</sup> The eisegesis of Calvinism to posit the notion that the “world” refers to the “world of the elect” is predictable and facile.

## ARTICLE

### DIFFICULT PASSAGES TESTED

1. “*The LORD hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil*” (Prov. 16:4). Calvinism teaches that God pre-ordained the non-elect wicked to hell. *Contra*: The Lord brings retribution on every unrepentant sinner in this life as well as in the life to come.
2. “*No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day*” (Jn. 6:44). Calvinism teaches that the Father draws the dead sinner<sup>4</sup> through irresistible grace to regeneration and then gives subsequent ability to believe in Christ for final resurrection. *Contra*: Notice what the Lord Jesus did say:
  - a. The Father draws sinners through the word of God: “*It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me*” (vv. 44-45; see Isa. 54:13)
  - b. All sinners must believe the word of God and receive Jesus: “*Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life*” (Jn. 5:24; 6:29, 30, 35, 36, 40, 47, 64[2x], and 69).
  - c. Those sinners who do believe are given to Christ: “*All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out*” (Jn. 6:37).

<sup>4</sup> Calvinism teaches that man is unable to respond to God; the Lord Jesus teaches that man has the ability but chooses not to turn, saying, “*And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life*” (Jn. 5:40).

# ARTICLE

Continued from Page 5

- d. The given ones have eternal life: “*And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day*” (Jn. 6:40).
3. “*(For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;)* <sup>12</sup> *It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger*” (Rom. 9:11-12). Calvinism teaches that Esau was non-elect. *Contra:* God in his sovereignty chose Jacob to receive the birthright rather than the firstborn Esau.
4. “*As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.*” (Rom. 9:13). Calvinism teaches that God had a pre-determined hatred for the non-elect Esau. *Contra:* The people of Esau historically hated Jacob’s offspring (Obad. 1:8-14) and warranted the Lord hating them many years later (Mal. 1:2).
5. “*Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth*” (Rom. 9:18). Calvinism teaches that God pre-determined Pharaoh to damnation. *Contra:* The Lord is merciful to all who turn to Him (Jon. 4:2). Pharaoh had sufficient revelation to turn to the Lord, but his heart was full of sin and the Lord hardened his heart (Ex. 9:27). Actually, the Lord hardens all men’s heart; if they have faith it is strengthened (Josh. 1:6-8), and if they have unbelief it is hardened (Ex. 7:13 and 8:32).
6. “*What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: <sup>23</sup> And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory*” (Rom. 9:22-23). Calvinism teaches dual predestination of the elect to glory and the non-elect to destruction. *Contra:* Only the believer is “*afore prepared*” for glory;

the vessels of wrath are merely “*fitted,*” but not “*afore prepared*” unto destruction.

7. “*For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ*” (Jude 1:4). Calvinists teach that the wicked were pre-determined to condemnation. *Contra:* Jude revealed that evil men of the past were written (προγεγραμμένοι) to receive judgment, such as the Sodomites, Cain, Balaam, and Core (vv. 7, 11; also 14).
8. “*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men*” (Lk. 2:13). Reformed translations such as the NIV render this verse, based on the faulty Greek text, as “*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among **people with whom he is pleased!***” Christ did not come for those with whom He is pleased (i.e., the elect), but for sinners (Lk. 5:32).

## CUMULATIVE STATEMENT

The Scripture teaches that all men were written in the Book of Life of the Lamb (since there is the potential of being blotted out), and even though they all have an adamic nature (which does not send them to Hell), they must repent of the sins that confirm this old nature and trust in the Saviour once they reach the age of accountability, but before they die. Otherwise, they will not obtain their permanence in the Book of Life by meeting the divine conditions and therefore die in their sins, being blotted out of the Book of Life at death. Infants and the mentally infirm who die prematurely remain in the Book of Life since they have not reached the age of knowledgeable sins. Those who have reached this age (obviously different for every individual) must meet God’s conditions for remaining in the Book of Life. Some first century apostates were blotted out prior to death, and followers of the First Beast will be blotted prior to their death. Permanence in the Book of Life is contingent not on God’s sovereignty but on man’s responsibility. If man does not fulfill his responsibility of meeting the Lord’s conditions of repentance and faith to obtain salvation and remain in the Book of Life, he will die in his unrepentant state and go to a place not prepared for him—the Lake of

Continued on Page 7

Continued from Page 6

Fire. Adam and Paul are examples of men before and after the *lapsis* respectively, whose spiritual journeys included life, death, and life, thereby obtaining their salvation through meeting the divine conditions of repentance and faith. Judas was an example of one who had life, death, and in spite of tremendous spiritual advantages, failed to meet God's conditions and was blotted out of the Book of Life.

The Lord God is good, and has put all men in the Book of Life, has provided Christ's universal atonement for them, has sent the Holy Spirit to convict all of sin and the need for repentance, draws all through His word, and is not willing that any should perish. Yet, the sinner who fails to benefit from God's goodness and does not obtain his salvation God's way, is totally and eternally culpable for going to the place of eternal judgment not prepared for him. The sinner who ends up in the Lake of Fire is not there because a god of hate predetermined this destiny, but because the sinner has deliberately and consistently rejected God's love and goodness and therefore chose this horrible but just damnation.

In conclusion, Paul said, exhorting, "*Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?*" (II Cor. 13:5), and Peter implored, saying, "*Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall*" (II Pet. 1:10).



## ARTICLE

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Berkhof, Louis. *Systematic Theology*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publ. Co., 1941.
- Boettner, Loraine. *The Reformed Doctrine of Predestination*. Philipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed Publ. Co., 1932.
- Carson, D. A. *Divine Sovereignty and Human Responsibility: Biblical Perspective in Tension*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, Publ., 2002.
- Calvin, John. *The Institutes of Christian Religion*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publ. Co., 1998 reprint.
- Gill, John. *A Body of Divinity*. Grand Rapids: Sovereign Grace Publishers, 1971 reprint.
- Hunt, David. *What Love is This? Calvinism Misrepresentation of God*. Sisters, OR: Loyal Publishing, Inc., 2002.
- Morris, Henry. *The Revelation Record: A Scientific and Devotional Commentary on the Prophetic Book of the End Times* (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publ., Inc., 1983).
- Strouse, Thomas. *Sound Doctrine: The Theology of I and II Timothy*. Cromwell, CT: Bible Baptist Theological Press, 2014.
- Vance, Laurence. *The Other Side of Calvinism*. Pensacola, FL: Vance Publications, 1999.
- Walvoord, John. *The Revelation of Jesus Christ* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1972).
- White, James R. *The Potter's Freedom*. Amityville, NY: Calvary Press Publ., 2000.



# DEVOTIONAL CORNER

## He Strengtheneth Me



Pastor Cas Reeves

*"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me"*

*Philippians 4:13*

What a great verse for all Christians to learn. It was one of the first verses that I learned after I got saved over 30 years ago. I don't believe there is a week that goes by that I don't use this verse either for myself or to help someone else.

Joseph, Mary's espoused husband was told, *"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins"* (Matthew 1:21). The purpose of Jesus coming was foretold to him. It was to deliver "His people from their sins." It not only reveals purpose, but also the power that is able to strengthen and to deliver.

The Believer, who has received Jesus Christ as his Savior, knows the power of Christ to deliver from the power or hold of sin in his life, as well as the deliverance from the eternal penalty of sin. Christians are told of this truth, the power to deliver: *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new"* (2 Corinthians 5:17).

The sinner is promised before he is saved, *"if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation"* (Romans 10:9-10). This delivering power in Christ to be saved and to be delivered from an eternal hell is accessed by whole-hearted faith after the sinner realizes what God has promised. *"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved"* (Rom.10:13).

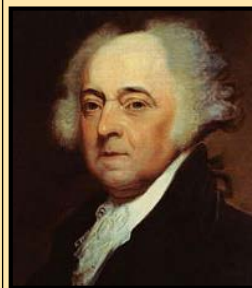
Jesus Christ, however, does not only save sinners from hell and sin, but also helps by delivering the Christians from a number of problems he faces in his every day routine of life. These problems can be of all kinds. The Lord has shared with us, *"My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness"* these words were spoken to the Apostle Paul; and his response, *"Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me"* (2 Corinthians 12:9). Paul's words reveal that he had learned the truth that Jesus had taught: *"For without me ye can do nothing"* (John 15:5).

In the closing chapter of the book of Hebrews, we are told, *"be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper"* (Hebrews 13:5-6). -CAR



John and Laura Hagglund song "Ask Me What Great Thing I Know" during last Sunday's morning service.

Quotes From the Past:  
**John Adams**  
1735-1826  
2nd President of the USA



John Adams

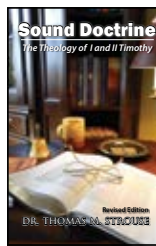
*"Facts are stubborn things; and whatever may be our wishes, our inclinations, or the dictates of our passions, they cannot alter the state of facts and evidence."*



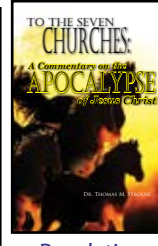
# THE BOOK CORNER

## The Book Corner

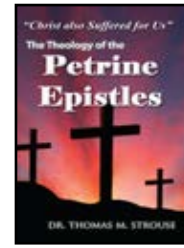
These Books may be purchased through **Bible Baptist Church**:  
40 Country Squire Rd.  
Cromwell, CT 06416  
860-229-5387



I & II Timothy \$20.00



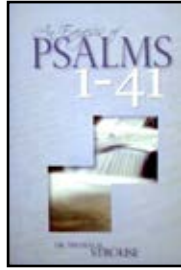
Revelation \$30.00



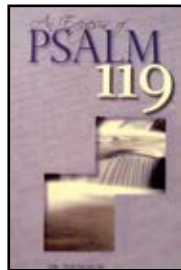
Peter \$20.00



I & II Thessalonians \$20.00



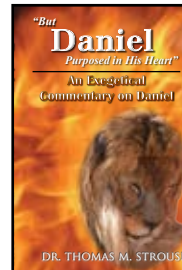
Psalms 1 - 41 \$20.00



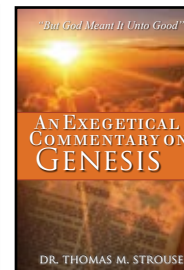
Psalms 119 \$20.00



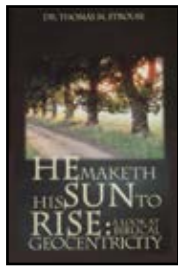
Spiritual Gifts \$8.00



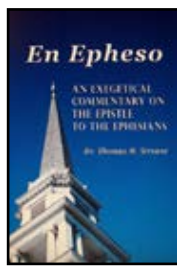
Daniel \$20.00



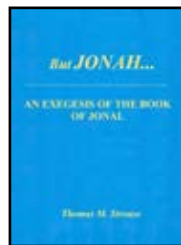
Genesis \$20



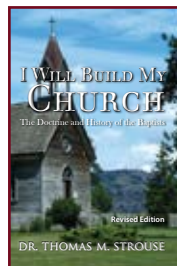
Geocentricity \$10.00



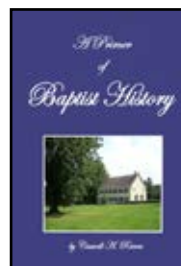
En Epheso \$20.00



Jonah \$10.00



I Will Build My Church \$15.00

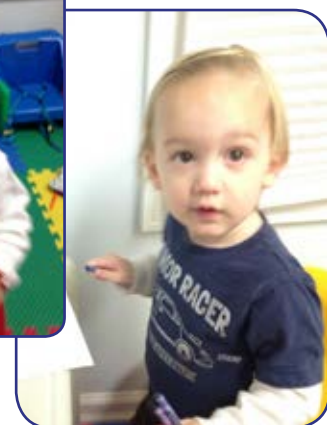


A Primer of Baptist History \$20.00



The Lord God Hath Spoken \$15.00

## BBC Fun



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)



**Bible Baptist Theological Seminary**

*A ministry of Bible Baptist Church*

40 Country Squire Road

Cromwell, CT 06416

860-613-2096

[www.bbc-cromwell.org](http://www.bbc-cromwell.org)