

# BBC UPDATE

## PA MODULE



Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

The Lord blessed in the Bible Baptist Theological Seminary module on Eschatology in Coopersburg, PA, with about twenty-seven students in attendance. Pastor and Mrs. Dave Smith were gracious hosts as my wife and I had the privilege of staying in the newly refurbished prophet's chamber at Community Baptist Church. Brother Bill Gotwals recorded all of the lectures and organized the whole venue including supper at 7 PM during the week. Recent 2020

Bible Baptist Theological Seminary graduate Pastor Jon Stockton (MBS) was enrolled along with another recent graduate, Mr. Clint Schreiber (ThM), Bible professor at Fairhaven Baptist College. Another Bible Baptist Theological Seminary seminarian and MBS candidate, Mr. Adam Shedal was enrolled in the course and is now finishing seminary work and preparing to plant Amazing Grace Baptist Church in the area in September, 2020. During the week it was great to see long-time friends Dr. and Mrs. Noel Meadowcroft who treated us to a wonderful home-cooked meal. During the week my son Ryan and his wife Christy and their three sons stopped by on their trip to see another recent Bible Baptist Theological Seminary graduate, Pastor Scott Blair (DMin) and his wife Kelly, of Willow Grove Baptist Church in Waynesburg, PA. Overall, it was a great week to be with and minister to brethren of like faith.



*Eschatology Class*



*Recent BBTS Graduate Jon Stockton and his family*



# THE SIMPLE, AGILE CHURCH THE LORD BUILT - PART 2

## M. RYAN STROUSE

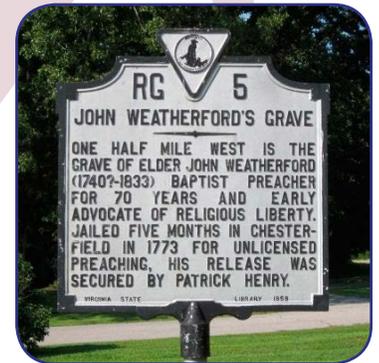


Mr. Ryan Strouse

*Part 1 of this article can be found in the June 1, 2020 edition of the BBC Update.*

### Historical Context

The two thousand year history of Baptists would reveal many examples of assemblies meeting homes, basements, caves, and forests; however, below are two examples of Baptist assemblies in America that showed great agility in the midst of persecution. As believers fled England to come to the New World, the Church of England maintained its reach into the Virginia Colony. The Virginia Episcopal Church would persecute non-conforming Baptists for not assembling in their state religion connected to the Church of England despite the Act of Toleration passed in 1689 in London<sup>1</sup>. The Act of Toleration went into law in 1699 in Virginia, which allowed Baptists to meet under the following conditions: pay a tax to the Anglican Church and receive a license from the General Court in Williamsburg, which only met twice a year<sup>2</sup>. As well, a license could be refused if they preached in certain locations to certain groups of people. Baptists did not comply with the cumbersome requirements that supported the Anglican church and prevented them from giving the gospel to “*All the world*” (Mk.16:15-16). Baptist pastors in Virginia would be fined and imprisoned for assembling or preaching without a license from the Virginia Colony. Two Baptist pastors, James Ireland and John Weatherford, on separate occasions and in separate jails were known to preach to their assemblies from the jail cell window<sup>3</sup>! These pastors were eventually released and flourished when religious freedom came to Virginia. The Lord’s agile model allowed Baptists to assemble in situations where their pastor was imprisoned and they could not publicly meet; certainly, the agility of these assemblies is seen as they worshipped “*in Spirit and in truth*” as they assembled with a prison wall in between their pastor and them.



### Considerations

It is the year two thousand and twenty in the United States of America; praise God for the First Amendment and the religious freedom that has been granted in this land for over two hundred years! Once freedom of religion came, the Lord’s assemblies flourished tremendously in America and even began to send Baptist missionaries to other countries. As well, Baptists began to purchase property and buildings to establish semi-permanent

<sup>1</sup> Strouse, Thomas M. *I Will Build my Church: The Doctrine and History of the Baptists*, 4th ed.. Emmanuel Baptist Press, Newington, 2001.

<sup>2</sup> Kidd, Thomas. Encyclopedia Virginia. The Act of Toleration in Virginia. 2016. Accessed [https://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Act\\_of\\_Toleration\\_1689#start\\_entry](https://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Act_of_Toleration_1689#start_entry)

<sup>3</sup> Little, Lewis Peyton. *Imprisoned Preachers and Religious Liberty in Virginia*. Pittsylvania County Public Library, 1938.

beacons of light in their communities. Certainly the Lord has blessed this country through the permeation of His Word and Assemblies.

As was the repeated case with Israel, when peace and freedom came the people forgot the Lord their God (Dt.6:12); they began to wander and forget the great things the Lord had done for them. In a similar respect, present day Baptists need not to forget the Lord's blueprint for His church in the added blessings of buildings, properties, and programs. Present day Baptist assemblies should not forget that generations of Baptists before met in uncomfortable conditions and dire situations to simply worship *"in Spirit and in truth."* Baptists need not to cling to their buildings and properties too tightly for liberties can change in this generation or the next.

This author propounds the Biblical truth that each assembly evaluate its own agility to continue in the Lord's model if heresy or persecution comes onto an assembly. Heresy and doctrinal slides typically confront a church during a time of pastoral transition; churches with established properties and buildings provide a difficult decision for the members to choose between. Do they stay in the building they grew up in or do they follow the Truth with a faithful remnant to begin assembling in a home? Just as churches, families, and organizations have fire drills on what to do and where to go in that emergency, even so must Baptist Pastors instruct their assemblies on the agility of churches recorded in scripture and the need to replicate that in an attack on their church. This author exhorts Pastors to prepare the next generation in their assemblies for limited religious liberties by emphasizing the agility the Lord built into His church model, which has been effectively practiced by our Baptist forefathers; who can know when religious liberty will cease in our land?



*Ryan had the privilege of preaching Sunday at Willow Grove Baptist Church in Waynesburg, PA*



*After strawberry picking with the children, the ladies canned jars and jars of jam.*



# DEVOTIONAL CORNER

Devotional Corner

6

What God Requires of Thee



Pastor Cas Reeves

## WHAT GOD REQUIRES OF THEE

*“And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul,”*

Deuteronomy 10:12

A saved man is one who has received Jesus Christ as his Savior, repenting of his sins. This is not just a matter of one having an intellectual accent to Christ, but rather a genuine heart experience that begins with a new birth and an eternal relationship that God gives through His Son.

Our text shares what God expected from His relationship with His chosen people Israel. First, that honor should be given Him through a fearful reverence. He expects respect to be shown to Him.

Second, that those in relationship with God walk in all His ways. He expects a faithful behavior toward His laws and commandments.

Thirdly, that His children love Him, giving themselves to Him wholly, singularly, and faithfully as one would give himself to his wife.

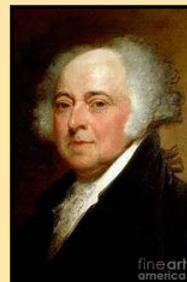
And fourth, that those counted worthy to be called the children of God should serve the LORD in a real way, that is, a sincere and genuine way with all of one's heart and soul.

Thus, it seems clear that when God saves someone that he expects those He saves to serve Him. This kind of service to the LORD is not just a lip service, but a real genuine, heart-felt, working service of personal behavior. This behavior is required of saved people. It is not required for salvation but for living in one's relationship with his God. -CAR



Several men gathered on Saturday to do some much appreciated landscaping to the property.  
Job well done!

## Quotes From the Past:



John Adams  
1735-1826

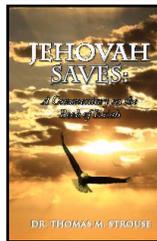
*“Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”*

2nd President of the United States

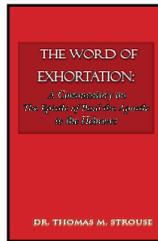
# THE BOOK CORNER

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

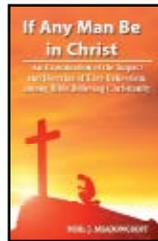
[drtms\\_bbts@juno.com](mailto:drtms_bbts@juno.com)



Isaiah \$20.00



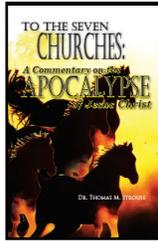
Hebrews \$30.00



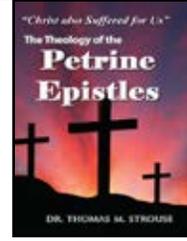
If Any Man Be ... \$10.00



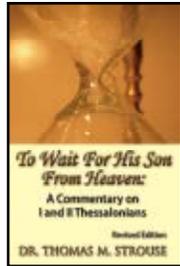
I & II Timothy \$20.00



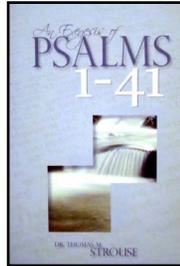
Revelation \$30.00



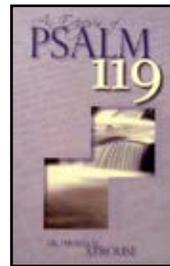
Peter \$20.00



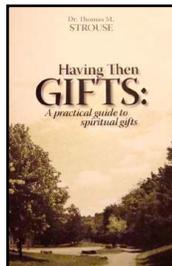
I & II Thessalonians \$20.00



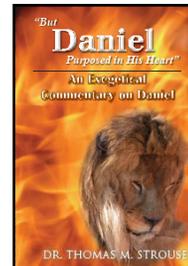
Psalms 1 - 41 \$20.00



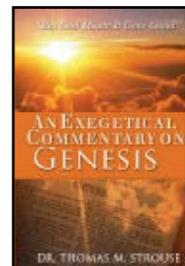
Psalm 119 \$20.00



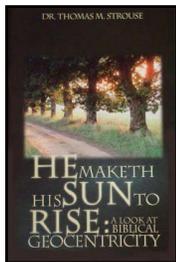
Spiritual Gifts \$8.00



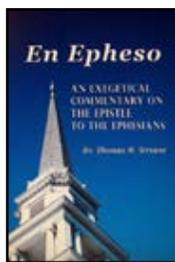
Daniel \$20.00



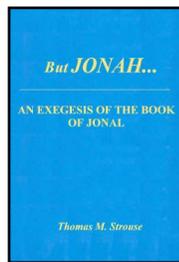
Genesis \$20.00



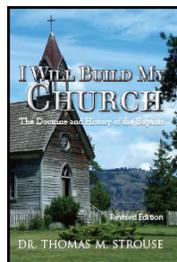
Geocentricity \$10.00



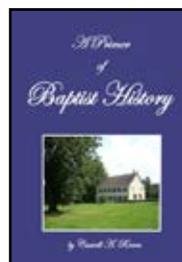
En Epheso \$20.00



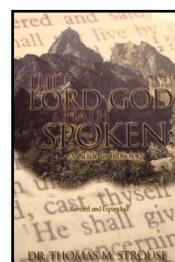
Jonah \$10.00



I Will Build My Church \$15.00



A Primer of Baptist History \$20.00



The Lord God Hath Spoken \$15.00

## VACATION BIBLE TIME

WHEN: AUGUST 6-7 6:30-9:00pm  
AUGUST 8 9:00am-12:00pm

WHERE: BBC Cromwell

WHO: All children entering Grades K4-6



## BBC 2020 SCHEDULE

**July 20-24**  
Plymouth, NH  
"The History of the English Bible"

**August 6-8**  
Vacation Bible Time

**August 24-28**  
Fairhaven Baptist Church  
"Minor Prophets"

**September 7**  
Labor Day Cookout  
Strouse House

**September 14-18**  
BBC of Nashua, NH  
"Bibliology"

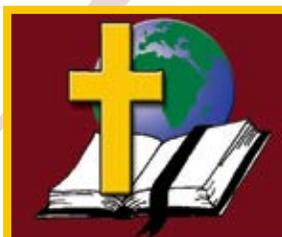
**October 6-17**  
Israel Tour

**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 email to:

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



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