



BBC UPDATE

AMERICAN BAPTISTS VS. NEW TESTAMENT BAPTISTS



Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

Introduction

The LORD blessed Israel and encouraged her to go into the Promised Land wherein many additional blessings were in store. He said, *“For the LORD thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills; A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and honey; A land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any thing in it; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass”* (Dt. 8:7-9). His concern was that Israel would take for granted the blessings and eventually forget Him, as He challenged, saying, *“Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day...Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage”* (Dt. 8:11, 14; cf also 19; 9:7).

The Double-edged Sword of Divine Blessing

Saints may enjoy divine blessings, but they have the tendency to presume on divine blessings, to exult self in divine blessings, to forget the source of divine blessings, and then to suffer consequences of forgetting the LORD. Was not this the case in the early years of America when the Lord blessed the young country which founders established its foundation on a Judaeo-Christian perspective of law and life? As the American way gave liberty of religion instead of persecution or toleration, and even gave the First Amendment, the Lord's churches were divinely blessed in a way not experienced in the prior seventeen centuries. In time the Lord's churches became comfortable with society and government and focused on wealth and size. At the same time they left behind trust in the Lord and in His calling for churches to evangelize, and not to fraternize, lost society, their enemy. Did not the precious Saviour say to His disciples, *“If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you”* (Jn. 15:18-19)? America has been a land of great blessings to Christians, but many churches have abandoned the Lord and His New Testament pattern for churches. Instead they have substituted wealth, bigness, programs, allegiance to government and to secular entities, and carnality for His worship *“in spirit and in truth”* (Jn. 4:24).

American Baptists

The twentieth century brought the Modernist-Fundamentalist battle (c. 1920) with fundamentalism impacting significantly conservative American Christianity for the entire century. Fundamentalism is Protestant in theology, American in allegiance, and Caucasian in ethnicity. American Baptists have been impacted detrimentally because Protestant doctrine perverted Baptist doctrine and practice, consequently spawning all sorts of aberrant beliefs relative to the nature, beginning, and purpose of the *ekklesia*, the ordinances, the offices, church finances, church discipline, etc. American Baptists have been impacted detrimentally by Fundamentalism with a dual allegiance to God and Country, undermining the singular loyalty to Christ. COVID-19 is an obvious example of Baptist churches collaborating with the government for the health and welfare of fallen society. Did the Lord Jesus Christ and His apostles/disciples ever collaborate with Caesar for the benefit of society? No! Caesar and society made up the “world” which hated them. In fact, the Lord made a distinction, saying, “*Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s*” (Mk. 12:17). The Lord Jesus obeyed the laws of Caesar but He did not collaborate with Caesar; a significant difference! Furthermore, American Baptists have been impacted detrimentally by Fundamentalism because it is Caucasian in ethnicity, eliminating blacks in a dismissive way from leadership. This is obvious from the need for blacks to form their own Fundamentalist movement entitled Conference On Evangelizing Black America (COEBA).

Biblical Options

What are the options for the young fundamentalists or millennials who see through the man-centeredness of fundamentalism, the sensuality of the emerging church movement, and the deadening, anti-rational Calvinism? The trajectory for “fundamentalism” is its soon demise. The biblical option for believers young and old is to remember the Lord and His pattern for New Testament churches. One could start by reading the inspired Baptist history written by Luke in the *Acts of the Apostles*. The New Testament Baptist churches were for the most part small, often house-churches, meeting in places that would not hinder their agility in times of persecution. Their focus was not on big ornate structures attracting the carnal eye of the crowd, but on the desire to worship the Lord “*in spirit and in truth*” in places like the non-descript “*upper room*.” The ancient Baptists were willing to disengage with any entanglement with government or secular organizations for the sake of truth. Their churches were “*the pillar and ground of the truth*”! Baptists were owned by the Lord Jesus Christ alone! Their assemblies were beholden to no man or organization as they were independent and autonomous churches!

Challenge

Baptist brethren, we need to realize that America is one leader away from a communist dictator/socialist society! What will Baptist churches do then?



Community Baptist Church of Coopersburg, PA hosted a Men's Campout. It was well attended by over 65 men from various churches.

Right: Brother Skorupski, one of the speakers, enjoys the view with Dr. Blair.



HIGH CALIBER COURAGE

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

CHAMPIONS FOR THE LORD

EXAMPLES OF GODLY QUALITIES WE CAN USE TODAY

WHEN: AUGUST 6 & 7 Thursday and Friday Evening 6:30-9:00pm
AUGUST 8 Saturday Morning 9:00am-12:00pm

WHERE: BBC, 40 Country Squire Rd., Cromwell, CT

WHO: All children entering Grades K4-6 or ages 4-12



VBS is a time of Bible learning, songs, games, snacks, and fun!

VBS 2019



For more information contact Ryan Strouse 860-878-2395

DEVOTIONAL CORNER



Pastor Cas Reeves

THE SLOTHFUL

*“The hand of the diligent shall bear rule:
but the slothful shall be under tribute”*

Proverbs 12:24

When the LORD speaks of the slothful person, He is speaking of those who are lazy and irresponsible. In contrast to slothfulness, the LORD reveals the reward of the industrious is the promises of bread and ruler-ship: *“The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute”* (Proverbs 12:24), and *“He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread: but he that followeth after vain persons shall have poverty enough”* (Proverbs 28:19).

Both as a warning and as help, the LORD directs the slothful man to consider the little creature called an “ant.” He first shares that it is the slothful man that must deliver himself by disciplining his sleepiness and by delivering himself from its dangers like that of a deer or bird from a hunter. *“Give not sleep to thine eyes, nor slumber to thine eyelids. Deliver thyself as a roe from the hand of the hunter; and as a bird from the hand of the fowler”* (Proverbs 6:4-5). Secondly, He shares that he must consider the “ant.” To consider is to study, and in so doing he will learn truths of life that can help deliver him from slothfulness.

“Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest” (Proverbs 6:6-8). God teaches that as one studies the “ant” he will learn that even this simple creature has an industrious work ethic.

First, the ant has a self-discipline towards work.

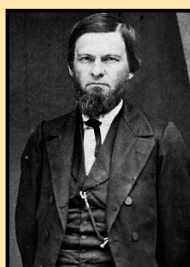
Secondly, the ant is self-managed and organized.

And thirdly, the ant prepares for the future.

As it is with the mundane affairs of life, many times when it comes to consideration of one’s spiritual life, they may be found slothful in this very important area of life. For example: Are you Slothful? Have you not considered and received not the gift of God? The gift of God, His only begotten Son, who is able to deliver the unbeliever from the future place called “hell.” This place which is waiting to receive all unbelievers. Don’t be slothful in this matter. -CAR



*Beholding God’s awesome creation upon
the mountaintop at the Men’s Retreat in
Cooperstown, PA*



John A. Broadus
1827-1895

Quotes From the Past:

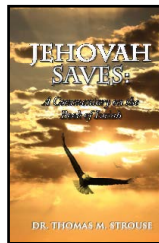
*“More secret than diplomacy,
deeper than the investigations of the wise,
and mightier than all the kingly power,
is the providence of God.”*

19th Century Baptist Preacher in USA

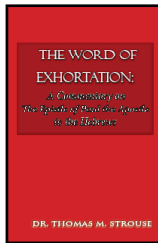
THE BOOK CORNER

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

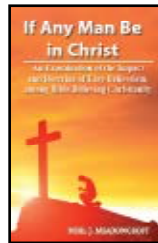
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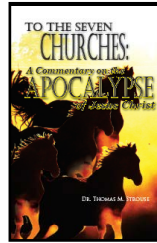
Isaiah
\$20.00



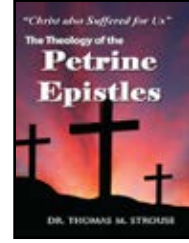
Hebrews
\$30.00



If Any Man Be ... I & II Timothy
\$10.00 \$20.00



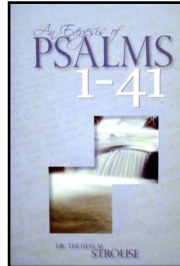
Revelation
\$30.00



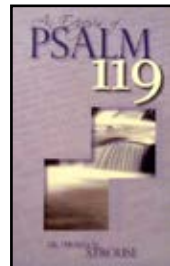
Peter
\$20.00



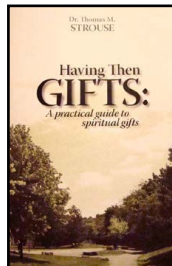
I & II Thessalonians
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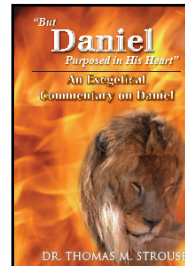
Psalms 1 - 41
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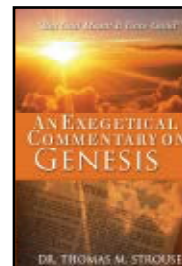
Psalm 119
\$20.00



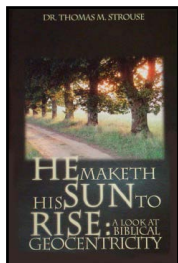
Spiritual Gifts
\$8.00



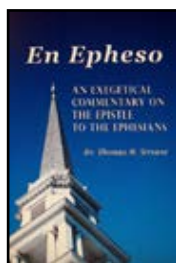
Daniel
\$20.00



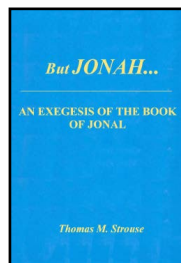
Genesis
\$20.00



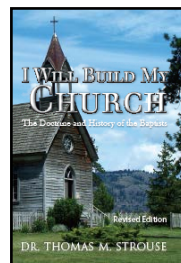
Geocentricity
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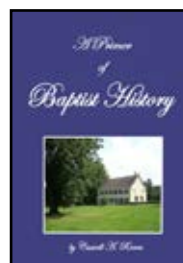
En Epheso
\$20.00



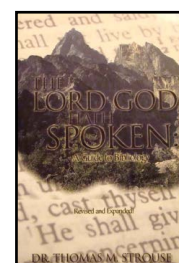
Jonah
\$10.00



I Will Build My Church
\$15.00



A Primer of Baptist History
\$20.00



The Lord God Hath Spoken
\$15.00

BBC 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



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