



# BBC UPDATE

## IRELAND BBTS MODULE



Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

During the week of January 6-10, 2020, the Lord blessed the Ireland Module with seventeen students. Several new students joined the classes with the intention of working toward Master Degrees. The modules were Minor Prophets II and Soteriology. The Lord opened this opportunity in 2004 and has blessed through the years with many pastors and missionaries taking the modules for credit and degrees. Dr. and Mrs. Robert Zemeski were the gracious hosts for room and board for Dr. Strouse, and their church, River Valley Baptist Church, housed the facility for the seminary classes. The fellowship around the truth with believers of like-faith is always a blessing. The challenge for the pastors in Europe is getting new men who are called, qualified, and willing to serve in the pastoral ministry in this spiritually dark and heathen part of the world. Europe is apostate and biblical churches are few and small. The dearth of biblical Christianity in Europe is a harbinger for America. The cry of Amos is apropos for the West: *"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD"* (Amos 8:11).



*Zemeskis with seminarians*



*Above: RVBC congregation*

*Below: Class picture*

### BBTS SPRING SEMESTER SCHEDULE

STARTING JANUARY 27, 2020

**MONDAY** ~ 9 AM to Noon  
Soteriology with Dr. Strouse

**TUESDAY** ~ 6-9 PM  
Ezekiel with Dr. Strouse

**WEDNESDAY** ~ 9 AM to Noon  
Ezekiel with Dr. Strouse

**THURSDAY** ~ 6-9 PM  
Malachi with Prof. Skorupski



## “GOD WAS MANIFEST IN THE FLESH” DR. THOMAS M. STROUSE

**KJV:** “*And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh.*”

**TR:** καὶ ὁμολογουμένως μέγα ἐστὶ τὸ τῆς εὐσεβείας μυστήριον· Θεὸς ἐφανερώθη ἐν σαρκί.

### Modern Versions (20th century)

**NET:** “And we all agree, our religion contains amazing revelation: **He** was revealed in the **flesh**.”

**ASV:** “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness; **He** who was manifested in the **flesh**.”

**DRA:** “And evidently great is the mystery of godliness, **which** was manifested in the **flesh**.”

**ESV:** “Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: **He** was manifested in the **flesh**.”

**NAS:** “And by common confession great is the mystery of godliness: **He** who was revealed in the **flesh**.”

**NIV:** “Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: **He** appeared in a **body**.”

**RSV:** “Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of our religion: **He** was manifested in the **flesh**.”

### Pre-Modern Versions

**Geneva** (1599): “And without controuersie, great is the mysterie of godlinesse, which is, **God** is manifested in the **flesh**.”

**Bishops’ Bible** (1595): “And without doubt, great is that misterie of godlynesse: **God** was shewed in the **flesshe**.”

**Luther** (1545): “*Und kündlich groß ist das gottselige Geheimnis: **Gott** ist offenbaret im **Fleisch**.*”

**Tyndale** (1534): “And with out naye great is that mistery of godlines: **God** was shewed in the **flesshe**.”

### Others

**Vulgate** (382): “*et manifeste magnum est pietatis sacramentum **quod** manifestatum est in **carne**.*”

**Reina Valera** (1960): “*indiscutiblemente, grande es el misterio de la piedad: **Dios** fue manifestado en **carne**.*”



## AN AMBASSADOR

*"Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus our brother, To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ"*

*Colossians 1:1-2*

*Pastor Cas Reeves* Paul introduces himself as "an apostle of Jesus Christ" as he begins his letter to the saints at Colosse. In most of Paul's letters, he reveals his apostleship in the introduction of the letter. The word "apostle" means "one who is sent." It is also a reference to the early church's apostolic office, which was a gift to the Lord's church for promotion and edification of His body. This office ended with the death of the last apostle.

The Apostle was sent forth to carry out the commission which the Lord gave to His church. That commission is found in Matthew 29:19-20, also in Acts 1:8.

*"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."* (Matthew 28:19-20)

*"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."* (Acts 1:8)

Thus, the Apostles traveled from country to country, nation to nation, province to province, city to city, and village to village sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As they evangelized individuals, they baptized them and discipled them, making them followers of Jesus and teaching them to observe all thing which Christ commanded. These disciples were assembled to carry out the commission after the pattern of the apostles. This assembly was called a local church.

In reality, the Apostolic office represented the initial ambassadors of Christ. It was their duty to represent Christ and His work. Although the Apostolic office has been discontinued, the great commission is still in effect and belongs to the local church, which is the body. Now, it is the church members that continue to carry out this duty.

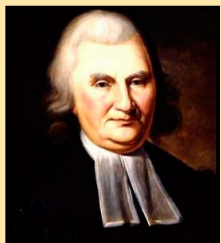
*"To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God."* (2 Corinthians 5:19-20)

Are you, as a church member, living as an ambassador for your Savior, Jesus Christ? It is the duty of every child of God to represent his heavenly Father, the God of Heaven. -CAR

## Quotes From the Past:

**John Witherspoon**  
1723-1796

Signer of the  
Declaration of Independence



*"Those who wish well to the State ought to choose to places of trust men of inward principle, justified by exemplary conversation."*

## GROW IN GRACE DEVOTIONAL FOR WOMEN

Grow In Grace

4

Devotional for Women

### THE SERVANTS RESPONSE PART 1

**Read:** Matthew 18:23-50

**Matthew 18:26** The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

**27** Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.

**Reflection:** As we read in this parable, the servant is in debt to the king and is now required to pay. There are several responses that this servant could have had, can you think of 2 or 3?

**\*Apathy-just didn't care what happened to himself or his family**

**\*Renegotiating-try to bargain down his debt**

**\*Blaming-it was the fault of another he didn't have the money**

**\*Excuses-he tried to pay the debt but life happened**

What is this servants response? He is humble, worships, asks for mercy, and has a desire to be right with the king of the kingdom.

What is the king's response? What a wonderful and compassionate king. He sees the hopeless condition of this servant and let him free of the debt and forgave it as though it never existed.

**Challenge:** When we see our condition of sinfulness against our Heavenly Father and our response is humility, and wanting a right relationship with Him...our Father also has compassion on us and forgives our debt through the wonderful redemption offered by our Lord and King Jesus Christ.

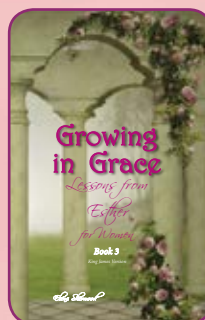
**Acts 20:21** Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord will not refuse salvation to anyone who meets His conditions of repentance and faith.

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

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



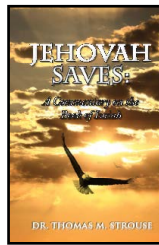
Bible Baptist Church has published the third book in its devotional series for women. If you would like to receive a complimentary copy, please contact the author, Elena Sherwood, at: Elenas6259@gmail.com.



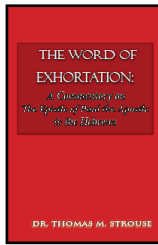
# THE BOOK CORNER

These Books may be purchased through  
Bible Baptist Church:  
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Cromwell, CT 06416  
860-229-5387

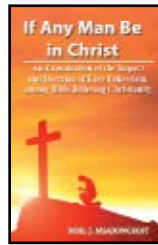
[drtms\\_bbts@juno.com](mailto:drtms_bbts@juno.com)



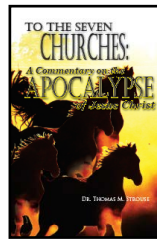
Isaiah  
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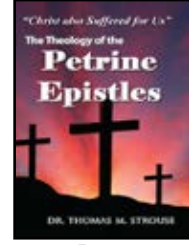
Hebrews  
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If Any Man Be ... I & II Timothy  
\$10.00 \$20.00



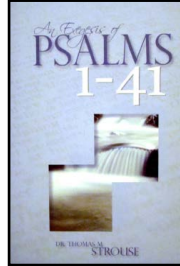
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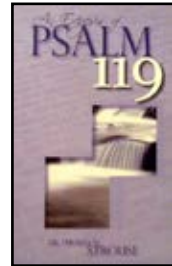
Peter  
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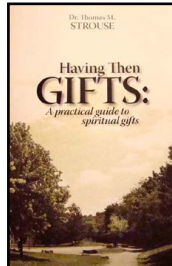
I & II Thessalonians  
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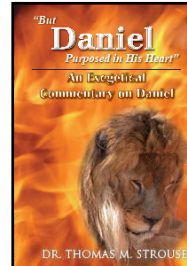
Psalms 1 - 41  
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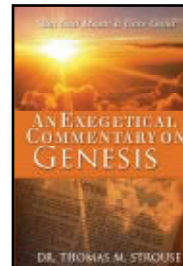
Psalm 119  
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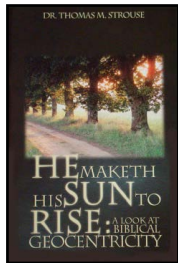
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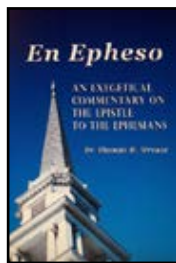
Daniel  
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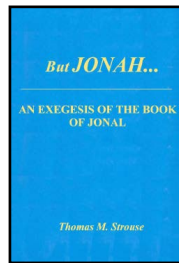
Genesis  
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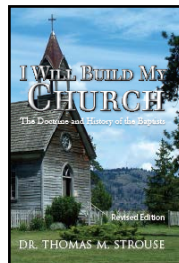
Geocentricity  
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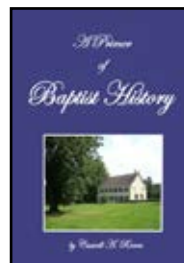
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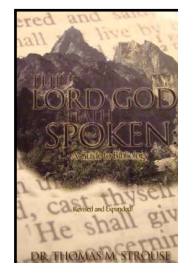
Jonah  
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I Will Build My Church  
\$15.00



A Primer of Baptist History  
\$20.00



The Lord God Hath Spoken  
\$15.00

## BBC 2020 SCHEDULE

**Feb. 10-14**

Dubai Module

**Mar. 9-13**

Endicott, NY

**Apr. 17**

BBTS Spring Lecture Series

**May 17**

BBTS Graduation

**Jun. 8-12**

Quakertown, PA  
"Eschatology"

**Jun 22-26**

Quezon City

**Oct 6-17**

Israel Trip



Mrs. Strouse and Preston James

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

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