



BBC UPDATE

IS THE PASTOR *THOROUGHLY FURNISHED*?



Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

The Apostle Paul says “Yes” and the “Mystical, Invisible, Universal, Ghost Church” devotees say “No”! The Apostle to the Gentiles instructed his understudy Timothy about the only available divine defense against the “*perilous times*” in which men “*wax worse and worse*” (II Tim. 3:1-5, 13). He averred, saying, “*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*” (II Tim. 3:16-17). Since the Bible consists of the Words of God, it is profitable for the man of God (i.e., pastor) to teach doctrine, to reprove sinners and saints, to correct wayward mankind, and to instruct all in righteous living. Paul said that the biblical pastor with the Word of God “*may be perfect*” (*artios* [1x]), complete or fit. Moreover, he claimed using the perfect passive participle that the pastor has been and still is “*thoroughly furnished*” (*exartizo* [2x]). The Bible is the heavenly textbook sufficiently and singularly adequate for the pastor to deal with all of the challenges in a fallen world with the adamic nature of men open to “*the wiles of the devil*” (Eph. 6:11).

The “Ghost Church” presents a plethora of “gurus” or “experts” who think that they can help “the poor, weak, insignificant pastor who can hardly stumble through his well-worn *KJV* biblical text and make sense of it.” These experts usually receive Bible college training from para-church Bible colleges or seminaries and continue to promote the “Ghost Church” heresy. Quite often, they have received training in foisting the American business model on church ministry and practice. Many of these devotees have started their own para-church ministries or they work through para-church mission boards based on pragmatic business models and focus on a “*niche*” in which they become “experts.” With their niche of expertise, they may claim to be the biblical counseling expert, the biblical financing expert, the revivalist expert, the creationist expert, the legal expert, the PTSD expert, the children’s ministry expert, the outreach expert, the church growth expert, the

Continued on Page 2

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missions expert, or the church “watchdog” expert. Although there is a place for pastors to be knowledgeable scripturally about the aforementioned topics, can they use the Scriptures to minister to the sinners of society and the saints of the congregation? The experts say “No”! They need the gurus of para-church ministries to help them navigate through their church challenges with the vast wisdom of the “experienced scholars” and unlimited resources of the Ghost Church. Although some may claim that their para-church ministry is supported by a local church, if the income and budget of the ministry are not included within the church budget, then it is functioning with financial and theological autonomy and is a separate entity. A church has its own financial budget, and a para-church has its own budget, and nary they come together!

Obviously, there is a place for sister churches of like faith to share resources in terms of the teaching and counseling by trained men, of the facilities, and of the ministries. This biblical sharing of church personnel is far different than subscribing to utilizing para-church ministries with the “experts” outside of biblical ecclesiology “helping” biblical assemblies! In effect, these gurus say that the Lord’s Baptist assemblies are insufficient, and as well, that the Word of God is insufficient for the pastors of these biblical churches. Assuredly, pastors can use helps such as commentaries, lexicons, electronic Hebrew and Greek sources, internet searches, etc., in their study of the Word of God. But do they need the Ghost church salesman who pitches his expertise to remedy the supposed fact that biblical pastors are non-thoroughly furnished?

Pastors, why support theologically and financially the para-church gurus fostered by the Ghost Church when the Lord has given you all you need in your visible assembly with the Scriptures? The precious Lord loves His assemblies, and He loves His pastors by giving them the sufficient Words of God. Certainly, the pastor needs to study the Scriptures and make applications for all challenges within and without the assembly. When Paul left the Ephesian Baptist Church elders, Scripture states his farewell, saying, “*And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified*” (Acts 20:32).

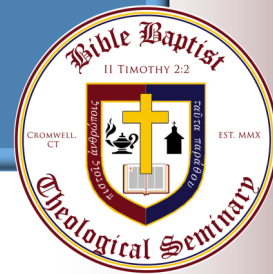
Are you “*thoroughly furnished*” to do the work of the Lord? Who says so?



BBTS 2023 SPRING LECTURE SERIES

WHEN: APRIL 21, 2023
TIME: 9AM—3PM
WHAT: “SPECIAL STUDIES IN THE JOHANNINE EPISTLES”
WHERE: GALILEAN BAPTIST CHURCH
STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT
RSVP: MARCH 31, 2023

**LUNCHEON AND BOOK TABLE
AVAILABLE**



Some topics that will be addressed in the Special Studies in the Johannine Epistles:

- *“The Gnostic Attack upon the Lord Jesus Christ”
 - *The Johannine Comma (I Jn. 5:7-8)
- *“When should corporate prayer not be offered?”
 - *“Gnostic Missionaries”
 - *“How to deal with an Unsaved Pastor”
 - *“How much Gnosticism is in Your Church?”



On February 17-18, 2023 Galilean Baptist Church held its 4th Annual Teen Winter Retreat.

There were 14 teens from 6 area churches that gathered for spiritual challenges from the Word of God, in addition to fun and fellowship. Pastor Steven Hinebaugh was the host and speaker of this year’s retreat.

DEBATES

On May 16, 2023, apologete Dr. Andrew Knight will debate atheist professor from University of Central Florida, Dr. Charles Negy. It will be held in Live Oak Cultural Center, 2050 Live Oak St., New Smyrna Beach, FL.

Brother Thomas Ross has given several sites to check concerning his recent debate with Dr. James White about the *Legacy Standard Bible* (2021). You may want to visit the following:

<https://faithsaves.net/james-white-debate-bible-versions-kjv-lsb/>

[https://rumble.com/v2avk2m-james-white-and-thomas-ross-bible-texts-and-versions-debate-lsb -and-ubs-na.html](https://rumble.com/v2avk2m-james-white-and-thomas-ross-bible-texts-and-versions-debate-lsb-and-ubs-na.html)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-GX1i9dFgP4&t=0s>

Again, these are former students of Dr. Thomas M. Strouse who appreciates their commitment to biblical truth and their willingness to debate the “*nay-sayers*” of the world, sometimes at their own financial expense.

“For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.”
II Cor. 13:8

BBC/BBTS 2023 SCHEDULE

April 21

BBTS Spring Lecture Series

Special Studies in the Johannine Epistles
Galilean Baptist Church
Stafford Springs, CT

May 22-26

Ireland Module

Gospel of Luke and Medical Language
Acts 1-9

June 5-9

Community Baptist Church

Coopersburg, PA
Book of Hebrews

September 25-29

Bible Baptist Church

Nashua, NH
Book of Hebrews

October 22-25

Willow Grove Baptist Church

Waynesburg, PA
Timeless Truths Bible Conference

October 28-29

Calvary Baptist Church

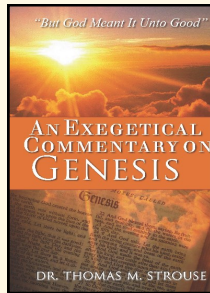
Mannington, WV
TBA

The Publication Page

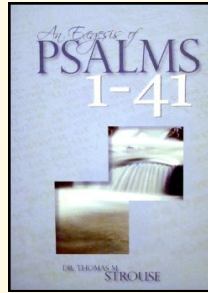
These books may be purchased by contacting:

Bible Baptist Church
40 Country Squire Dr.
Cromwell, CT 06416

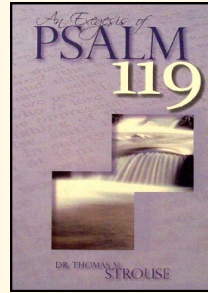
860-229-5387



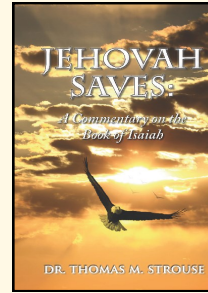
Genesis
\$20.00



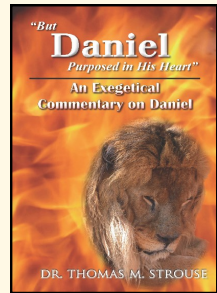
Psalms 1-41
\$20.00



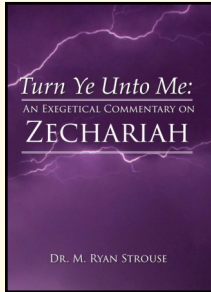
Psalm 119
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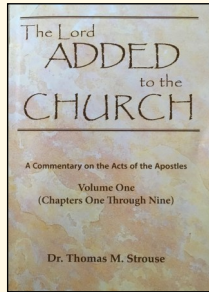
Isaiah
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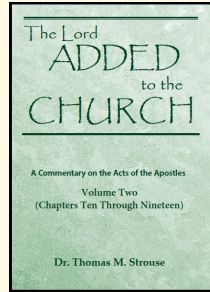
Daniel
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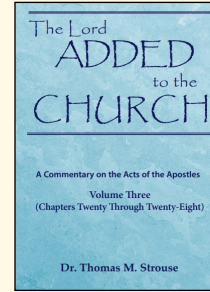
Zechariah
\$30.00



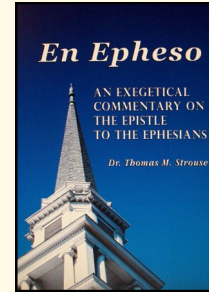
Acts 1-9
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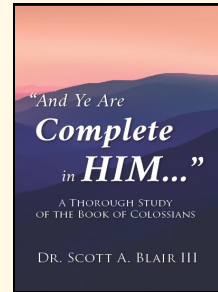
Acts 10-19
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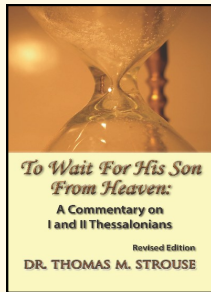
Acts 20-28
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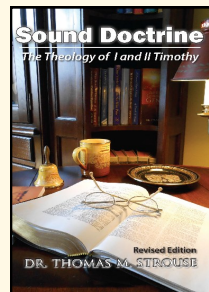
Ephesians
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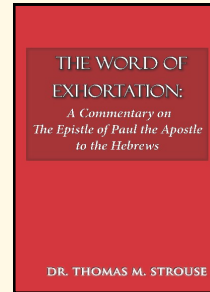
Colossians
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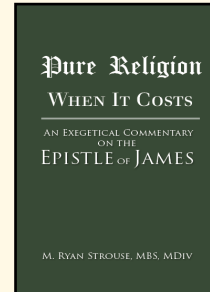
1 & 2 Thessalonians
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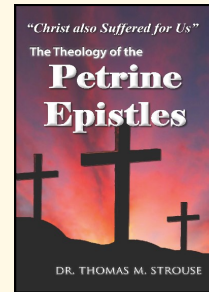
1 & 2 Timothy
\$20.00



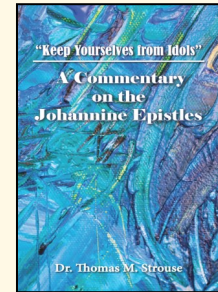
Hebrews
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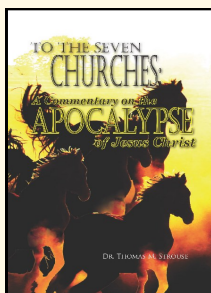
James
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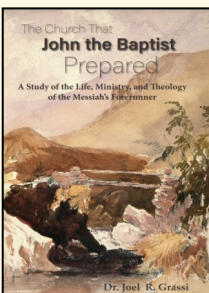
1 & 2 Peter
\$20.00



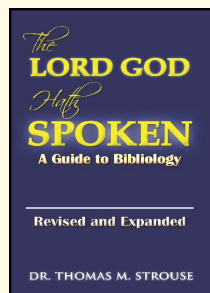
Johannine Epistles
\$30.00



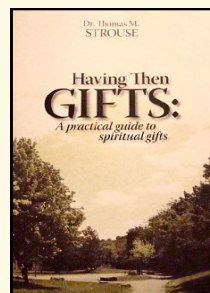
Revelation
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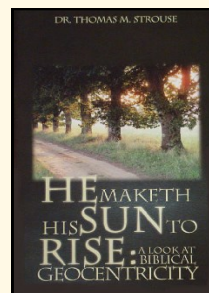
John the Baptist
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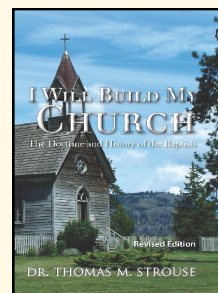
Bibliology
\$15.00



Spiritual Gifts
\$8.00

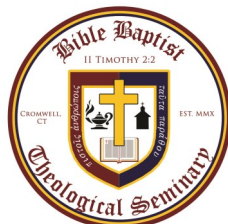


Geocentricity
\$10.00



Baptist Doctrine & History
\$15.00

If you have any news for the next issue of the BBC Update, please send an email to: drtms_bbts@juno.com



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