



# BBC UPDATE

## BIBLE BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY SPRING LECTURE SERIES



Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

On Friday, April 21, 2023, the Lord gave a beautiful day for the fourteenth annual Bible Baptist Theological Seminary Spring Lecture Series held at Galilean Baptist Church in Stafford Springs, CT, shepherded by Pastor Stephen Hinebaugh. About seventy people from eight different Baptist churches from CT, MA, ME, NH, and NY attended and heard exposition from the *Johannine Epistles*. Dr.

Thomas Strouse gave the interpretation for several passages in the Epistles, including the internal defense of the *Johannine Comma* (I Jn. 5:7-8). Electronic syllabi are available on request.

The fellowship of the churches was warm and endearing, and the luncheon comprised of roast beef smothered with gravy and served with roasted potatoes and green beans, was delicious. Many books by the writing brethren were purchased for the growth and edification of the reading Christian.



Top: Attendees of the Lecture Series gather on the field for a group photo.

Right: Dr. Thomas Strouse expounding the scripture.

# WHEN SHOULD CORPORATE PRAYER NOT BE OFFERED?

## THE DISCERNMENT IN PRAYER FROM THE THREE TESTS (5:14-17)

Verses 5:14-15

*And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.*

More profitability comes to the congregation that has employed the Doctrinal, Moral, and Social Tests. The writing style of John allowed him to revisit revelatory truth and expand on it. He had stated earlier, declaring, *“Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight”* (3:21-22). The divinely indwelt church member has great confidence that corporate prayer will result in heavenly answers. He assured the congregation, saying, *“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us”*

The one condition to this great promise is the will of God. For instance, the Lord Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, saying, *“O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt”* (Mt. 26:39). Biblical prayer includes the believer and the Triune Godhead. Paul disclosed the persons of the transaction of prayer, saying, *“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God”* (Rom.8:26-27). It seems that Paul taught that God spoke to Himself through the believer’s prayer!

The biblical church has great power in corporate prayer. The biblical assembly is *“the pillar and ground of the truth”* (I Tim. 3:15), that exalts Him as *“God manifest in the flesh”* (I Tim. 3:16), that recognizes Christ is her *“Head”* (Col. 1:18), her *“chief corner stone”* (Eph. 2:20), is His *“Body”* (Eph. 1:22-23), and that He meets in the midst of her (Mt. 18:20). Based on the biblical nature of the NT assembly, John asserted, saying, *“And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him”* (The absolute knowledge that God will answer came from the Lord Jesus, Who said to His Baptist assembly the night before His crucifixion, saying, *“And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.”* (Jn. 14:13-14; cf. also 15:7, 16; 16:23, 24, and 26).

Verses 5:16-17

*If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it. All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death.*

The corporate prayers of the Baptist assembly are so powerful and so receive the promise of fulfillment that the church members need to pray within the parameters of the will of God. The apostle categorized two types of sin. He expanded on the only objectively known *“sin unto death”* for the assembly. This would be the unconfessed sin of an unrepentant church member

## WHEN SHOULD CORPORATE PRAYER NOT BE OFFERED?

*Continued from page 2*

turned over to Satan for destruction. Paul elaborated on the Lord's instruction about church discipline (Mt. 18:15-18) and applied it to the fornicating man at Corinth. The apostle taught the assembly, saying, *"In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus"* (I Cor. 5:4-5). Whatever is the unconfessed sin that leads to church discipline, the disciplined church member is headed for death *via* the instrumentality of Satan. When the disciplined member faces the destruction of the flesh, church members **are not to pray** for the healing of the dying member, but only for his repentance that would lead to spiritual restoration. John prohibited prayer for the healing of unrepentant and disciplined members. With this truth as a backdrop of John's instructions, scriptural clarification of the prohibition occurs.<sup>1</sup>

Pastor John, stated, saying, *"If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it"* Three times John alluded to the *"sin not unto death"* and once to the *"sin unto death."* Since the writer did not define the dual types of sin, the sin must public and unconfessed. Obviously, repentance by the sinner must occur before forgiveness and prayer (Lk.17:3). When repentance, forgiveness, and prayer occur, the Lord gives physical life to the restored brother. The disciplined church members were those who *"went out from us"* (2:19) because of their Gnostic claims about Christ. If any were true believers in Christ but persuaded by the Gnostics, and thus turned over to Satan for destruction, the church members were not to pray for the deceived former members. The goal of church discipline for the member is restoration into the church from whence he received discipline, and upon repentance, received into membership with forgiveness, comfort, and love (II Cor. 2:7-8). No longer would the restored church member be dying under the destructive hand of Satan, but now in fellowship with the assembly members and God under the protective headship of Christ (I Cor. 11:3; Eph. 4:15).

The apostle did not dismiss or demean the nature of sin. He declared, saying, *"All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death"* The Lord hates all sin, but gives the advocate Jesus Christ for the Christian who sins and repents (2:1-2). Paul affirmed universal sin and death, saying, *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"* (Rom. 3:23) and *"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord"* (Rom. 6:23). The Johannine passage has a specific context referring disciplined Gnostics for whom church members should not pray for the healing of the destruction of the flesh.

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<sup>1</sup>Glenn Barker exclaimed about the interpretation of the verse; "This is puzzling." *The Expositor's Bible Commentary. Hebrews – Revelation, Volume 12.* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publ. House), p. 355.

# BBTS SPRING LECTURE SERIES PHOTOS



*Pastors and Staff*

*C. Reeves, D. Herr, J. Reeves, K. Main, Dr. T.M. Strouse, G. Breeden,  
D. Short, R. Hammond, S. Hinebaugh, J. Stockton, J. Skorupski, D. Nelson*



*The congregation fills the auditorium with song.*



4



*Dr. Strouse announces the publication of his new book.*



*Pastor Stockton enjoys lunch with some of his church members.*



*Bill Gotwals live streams the lecture throughout the world.*

# BBTS SPRING LECTURE SERIES PHOTOS

*It was a beautiful spring day to enjoy God's creation during the lunch hour.*



*Christy and Preston enjoy the warm sun.*



*Sisters & Spouses*



*Plenty of food and fellowship inside as well.*



*Young ladies enjoying the day.*



*Siblings and friends reunited.*

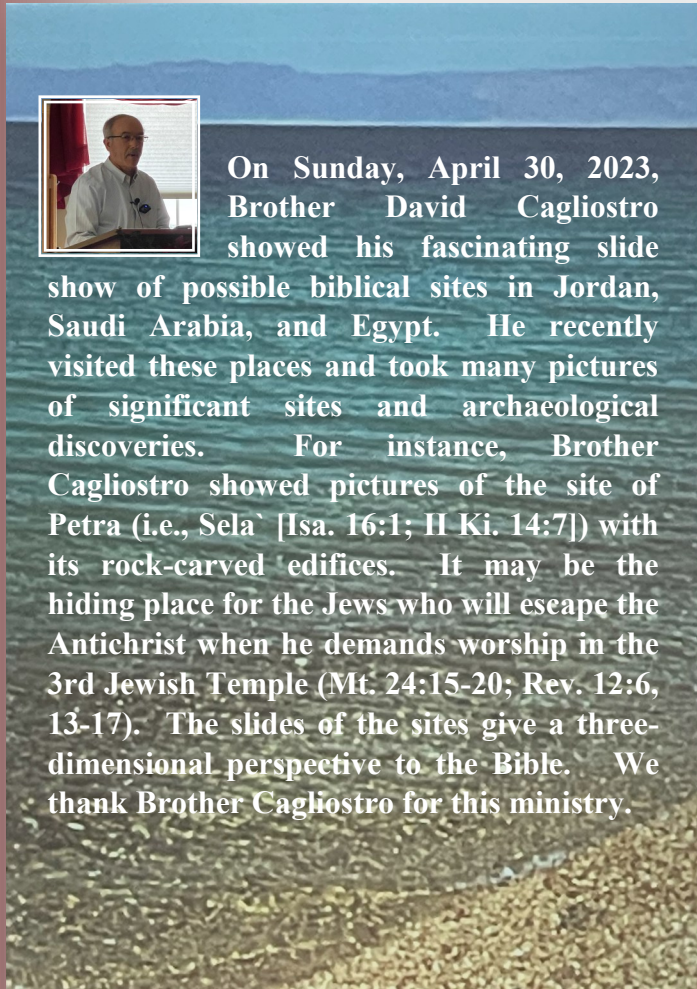


*The "future pastors" exchange thoughts about the lecture at the break and during lunch.*

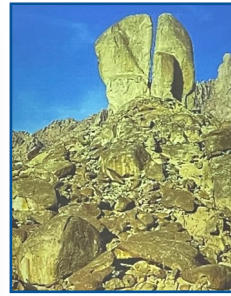


*Aiko and Dave discuss their favorite dessert.*

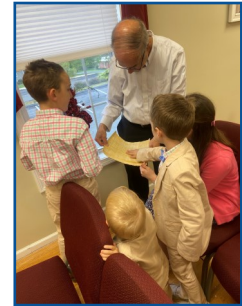
# SLIDE PRESENTATION



On Sunday, April 30, 2023, Brother David Cagliostro showed his fascinating slide show of possible biblical sites in Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt. He recently visited these places and took many pictures of significant sites and archaeological discoveries. For instance, Brother Cagliostro showed pictures of the site of Petra (i.e., Sela` [Isa. 16:1; II Ki. 14:7]) with its rock-carved edifices. It may be the hiding place for the Jews who will escape the Antichrist when he demands worship in the 3rd Jewish Temple (Mt. 24:15-20; Rev. 12:6, 13-17). The slides of the sites give a three-dimensional perspective to the Bible. We thank Brother Cagliostro for this ministry.



1. The rock Moses smote for water.
2. Pictographs of the golden calf.
3. Brother Dave showing the youth papyrus.
4. Moses' Well.



## BBC/BBTS 2023/2024 SCHEDULE

**May 22-26**

**Ireland Module**

*Gospel of Luke and Medical Language Acts 1-9*

**September 25-29**

**Bible Baptist Church**

Nashua, NH  
*Book of Hebrews*

**January 1-5, 2024**

**Ireland Module**

*TBA*

**June 5-9**

**Community Baptist Church**

Coopersburg, PA  
*Book of Hebrews*

**October 22-25**

**Willow Grove Baptist Church**

Waynesburg, PA  
*Timeless Truths Bible Conference*

**January 15-19, 2024**

**Fairhaven Baptist College**

Chesterton, IN  
*Module TBA*

**July 24-28**

**Calvary Independent Baptist Church**

Plymouth, NH  
*The Johannine Epistles*

**October 28-29**

**Calvary Baptist Church**

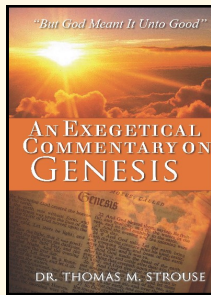
Mannington, WV  
*TBA*

**Feb 26-March 1, 2024**

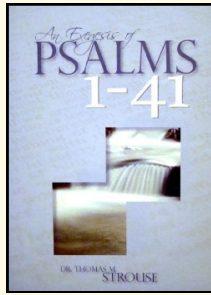
**Philippines Module**

Quezon City  
*Module TBA*

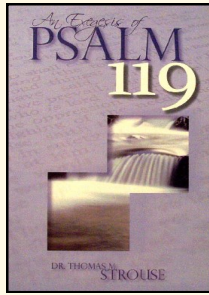
# The Publication Page



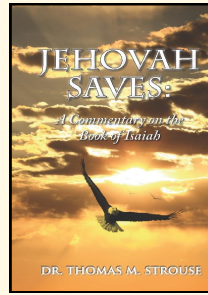
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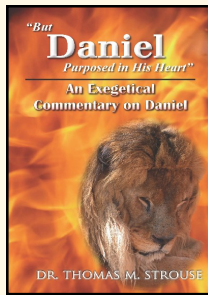
Psalms 1-41  
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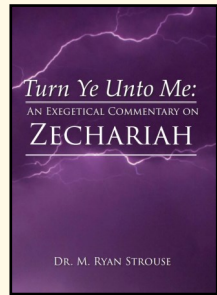
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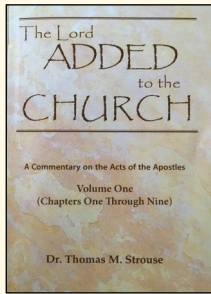
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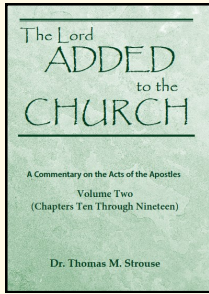
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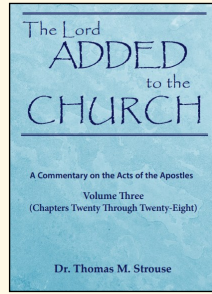
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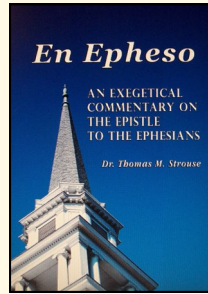
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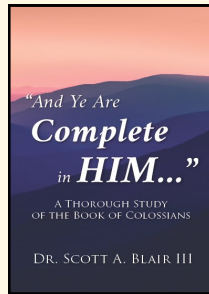
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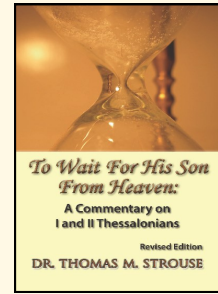
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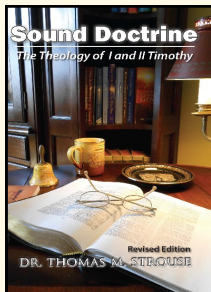
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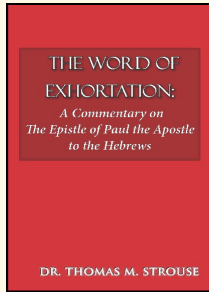
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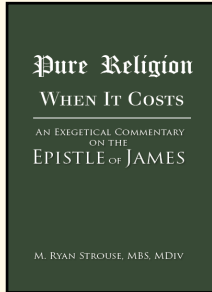
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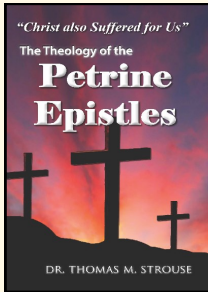
1 & 2 Timothy  
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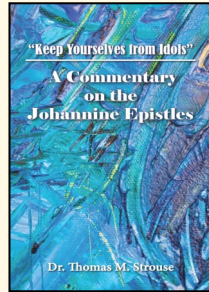
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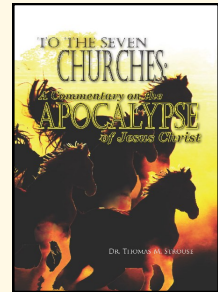
James  
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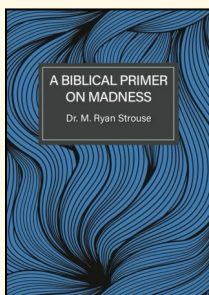
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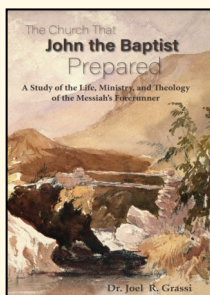
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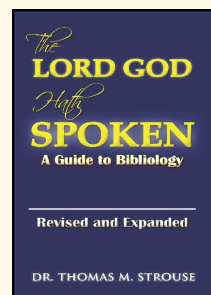
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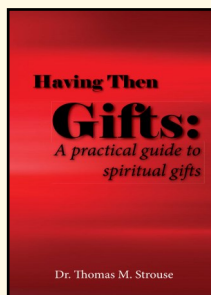
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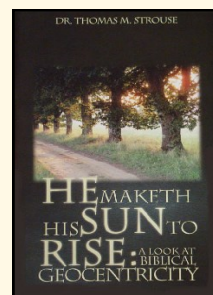
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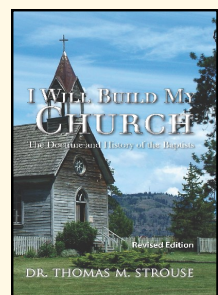
Bibliology  
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Spiritual Gifts  
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Geocentricity  
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Baptist Doctrine & History  
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**Bible Baptist Theological Seminary**  
A Ministry of Bible Baptist Church  
40 Country Squire Drive  
Cromwell, CT 06416  
860-613-2096  
www.bbc-cromwell.org