



BBC UPDATE

MINISTRY OF MR. TOM BAKER



Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

On June 18, 2023, Mr. Tom Baker from Ireland gave three presentations from archeological discoveries that support Bible truths. During Sunday School, he gave archeological evidence for the general location of Sodom NW of the Dead Sea (Gen. 10:19; 13:1-13; 14:7; Dt. 34:1-3). Contrary to critics, Sodom did exist somewhere and God judged the sin of sodomy. At the AM service,

Brother Baker dealt with the extra-biblical accounts of the Noahic Flood, and showed their similarities and dissimilarities with the truth of the biblical account. During the PM service, he argued from Scripture and archaeology for the existence and approximate location of the Tower of Babel. Preacher Baker received his MBS from Bible Baptist Theological Seminary in 2015 and recently received his BA in Ancient History and Archeology from Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. He ministers in his home church, Good News Baptist Church in Mullingar, Ireland and fills NT church pulpits throughout the area. We are thankful for this faithful graduate of Bible Baptist Theological Seminary and servant of the Lord.



*Above: Tom Baker's presentation
Left: Dr. Strouse and Tom Baker
Right: Brother Baker and the Cromwell sign*



“A Limerick for Tom Baker”

There was a young lad who preached in Limerick,
And studied artifacts retrieved by trowel and pick,
Many discoveries related to the Bible,
Attesting that the Good Book was reliable,
But the doubts of the naysayers he didn't "give a lick."

THE APPEAL OF THE UNIVERSAL, INVISIBLE CHURCH

Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

Introduction

The Augustinian monk Martin Luther imagined a convenient doctrine to deliver him from the supposed horrendous peril he faced when Pope Leo X ex-communicated the baptized Catholic Luther from the Roman Catholic Church in 1521. He subsequently invented the doctrine of the *unsichtbar kirche* or “invisible church,” which to him represented the “true church.” He was motivated by the heretical mantra of the third century Cyprian who proclaimed *extra nulla salus ecclesiam* (“outside the church there is no salvation”). Since Luther was outside of the visible church, he thought that he had no hope of “salvation”! His concocted scheme of “true” church membership influenced Protestantism which influenced Fundamentalism which influenced Baptist theology. Once the Act of Toleration (1689) allowed toleration to the ecclesiological non-conformists like Baptists and Congregationalist, the Baptists like John Gill tolerated Reformed pastors and embraced their dual pre-destination and invisible church heresies. Reformed Baptist Pastor Gill wrote voluminously and influenced British Baptists with the “church of the elect” doctrine. Eventually 19th century evangelical Baptists and 20th century Fundamentalists sustained and established the “orthodoxy” of the mystical Body of Christ, invisible ghost church heresy.

The Two-Church Heresy

The two-church theory of the invisible, universal church and visible, local church has had enormous appeal. Advocates contend that while pastors and Christians could minister and fellowship in the visible assembly, there is something far bigger and better in the “true church” of the saints! In the big invisible, universal “assembly” there is **no accountability!** The powerful appeal of the universal, invisible church is that there is no accountability to any pastor, for one’s attendance or even whereabouts, or with one’s tithing or Christian giving. The devotees of the “ghost church” argue “I am right with my Saviour whether I attend church services or not.” Of course, this is patently false because it is unbiblical. The Lord has always had a “*place*” (Dt. 12:5) where He wants the saints to meet with Him in worship and service. Jehovah met with Adam and Eve in the Garden, Noah and family in the Ark, Abraham and patriarchs in Bethel, Moses and Israel in the Tabernacle, David and the Jews in the Pitched Tent, Solomon and the nation in the First Temple, Zerubbabel, Joshua, and exiles in the Second Temple, baptized believers in the Upper Room and house churches, perfected Jews in the Third Temple, Millennial saints in the Fourth Temple, and the Bride in the New Jerusalem. Most of the NT was written to known biblical assemblies for Christian living as baptized members. The Lord said “*For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them*” (Mt. 18:20) in the context of church discipline (Mt. 18:17-18). The Apostle Paul enjoined the Ephesian church elders to feed the flock, the church of God

(Acts 20:28), gave qualifications for the church officers of pastor and deacon (I Tim. 3:1-13), and warned the church members at Jerusalem to submit to their spiritual leaders, saying, *“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you”* (Heb. 13:17).

The Parachurch Ministry

Spawned from the Universal, Invisible, Mystical Body of Christ, Ghost Church heresy, Parachurch ministries (including mission boards) were created to “help” the Lord’s assemblies. Parachurch ministries supposedly work alongside of churches as helps with different niches of intrigue, attractions or specialized focus. These Parachurch ministries are separate entities not under the authority of any church or pastor. The key to understanding the nature of a ministry is its financing. The adage “follow the money” is pertinent because Parachurch ministries are self-funding. A ministry, which is part of an assembly, should be supported by the church, and any outside support monies for it should go to the church budget, not to the separate Parachurch ministry budget under the exclusive control of the “director.” Churches helping other churches in ministry and with money are not the problem or issue addressed here. However, some directors of Parachurch ministries claim to be sent out from a church but have their own finances and budgets separate from the “sending” church. They are independent in control and financing from any NT church. Examples of churches with ministries such as a camp, a Bible college, a seminary, a music ministry, or a publishing ministry, etc. which have budgets within the church budget for such church ministries are not Parachurch ministries. Contrariwise, ministries which have camps, colleges, seminaries, publications, or evangelists, missionaries, preachers/teachers with their own independent financing and budgets under separate control by the director are really not under the pastor or the budget of a local church, and are independent Christian organizations not countenanced by the Scriptures nor sanctioned by the Saviour.

Conclusion

We as independent Baptists should not contradict and corrupt our biblical ecclesiology by using or promoting Parachurch ministries!



PASTOR ALEKSEI JUSEV INDUCTION

PHOTOS

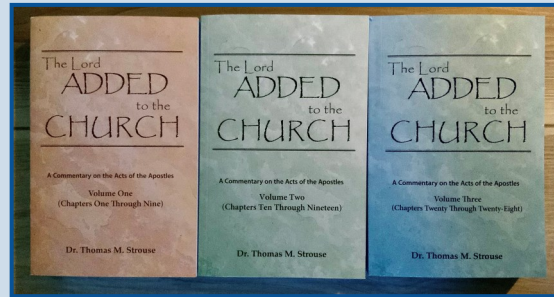


Congratulations on the induction of Pastor Aleksei Jusev for the pastorate of River Valley Baptist Church in Maynooth, Ireland.

Pictured here with his wife and family along side Mrs, Kathi Zemeski. Pastor Gene McKinley conducted the service.

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Dr. Thomas M. Strouse's Trilogy on the Book of Acts \$90.00 set for \$65.00



SCHEDULE

BBC/BBTS 2023/2024 SCHEDULE

July 24-28
Calvary Independent Baptist Church
Plymouth, NH
The Johannine Epistles

September 4
Labor Day Cookout
Strouse House
2-7PM

September 10-12
Community Baptist Church
Coopersburg, PA
Conference on the Blessed Hope

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

November 3
BBTS Fall Lecture Series
Galilean Baptist Church
Stafford Springs, CT
TBA

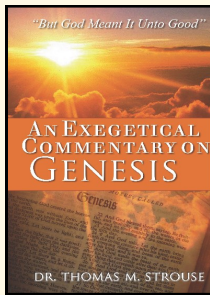
December 10
Commencement Service
Seoul, Korea

2024
January 1-5, 2024
Ireland Module
TBA

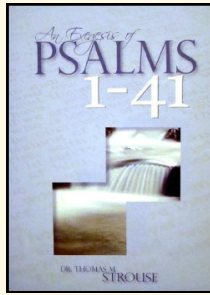
January 15-19, 2024
Fairhaven Baptist College
Chesterton, IN
Module TBA

Feb 26-March 1, 2024
Philippines Module
Quezon City
Module TBA

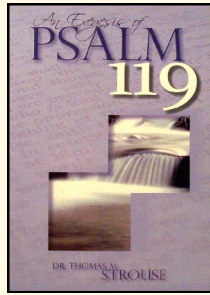
The Publication Page



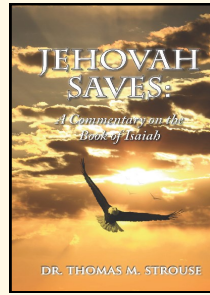
Genesis
\$20.00



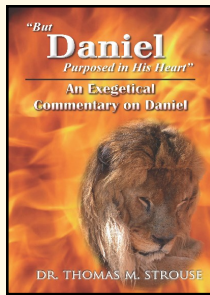
Psalms 1-41
\$20.00



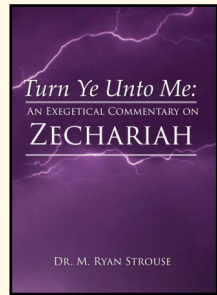
Psalm 119
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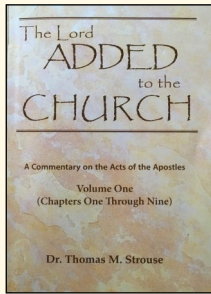
Isaiah
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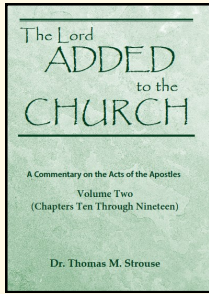
Daniel
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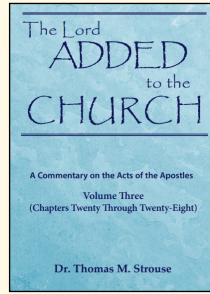
Zechariah
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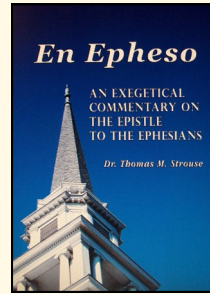
Acts 1-9
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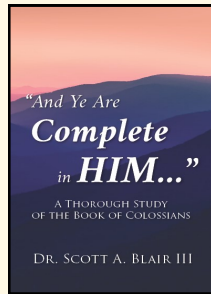
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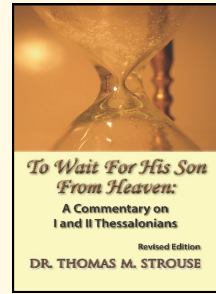
Acts 20-28
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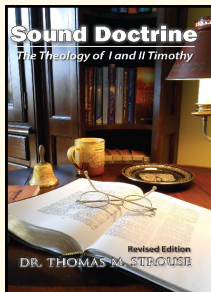
Ephesians
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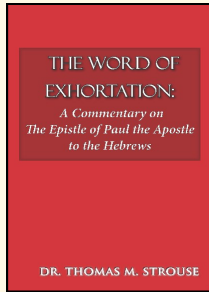
Colossians
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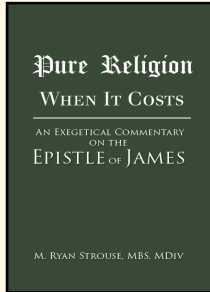
1 & 2 Thessalonians
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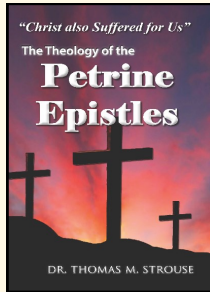
1 & 2 Timothy
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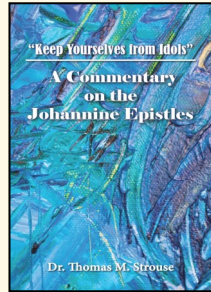
Hebrews
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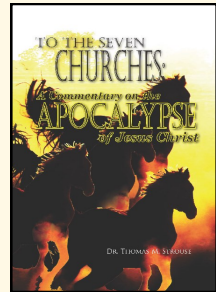
James
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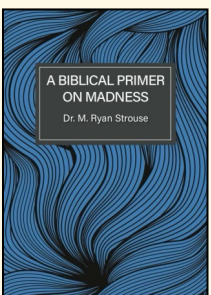
1 & 2 Peter
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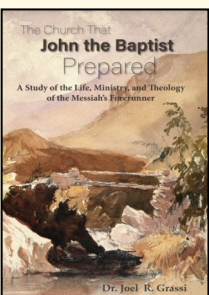
Johannine Epistles
\$30.00



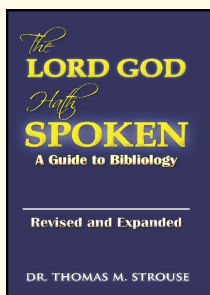
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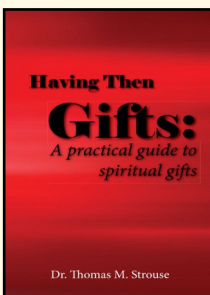
Biblical Madness
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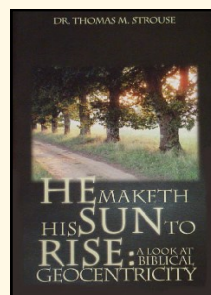
John the Baptist
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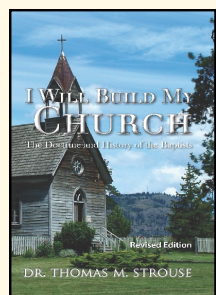
Bibliology
\$15.00



Spiritual Gifts
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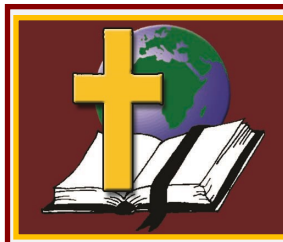
Geocentricity
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Baptist Doctrine & History
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