



# BBC UPDATE

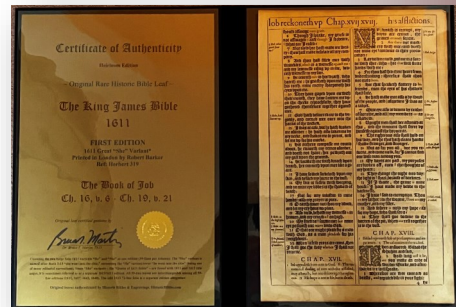
## BBTS MODULE IN NH



Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

**DURING** the week of July 24-28, 2023, the Lord blessed in Bible Baptist Theological Seminary module at Calvary Independent Baptist Church in Plymouth, NH. Pastor Dr. Chet Kulus and his gracious wife Nancy were hosts as Dr. Thomas Strouse taught through the Johannine Epistles. The module was well attended with about 20 students every evening between 5:00 to 10:00 PM. Dr. Kulus and the church surprised Dr. Strouse with a gift of appreciation, namely an “Original Historic Bible Leaf of The King James Bible 1611, First Edition of The Book of Job, Chapters 16:6 to 19:21.” The King James Bible is the one Bible that the precious LORD has honored in the English language for four hundred and twelve years. As an English translation of the preserved inspired words in the Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek texts, it is far superior to any other English translation of the received texts of Scripture, and

easily surpasses the modern versions of the corrupted and Gnostic-laced texts by inferior and questionable translators!



## GNOSTIC-LACED TEXTUAL VARIANTS IN I JOHN

### Introduction

**GNOSTICISM** (“knowledge”) was the alternative worldview of the Gentile heathens in the backdrop of the New Testament. It began in the Garden of Eden with Satan’s two lies to Adam and Eve promising Deathlessness and Deification based on knowledge (Gen. 3:1-5). Since then, fallen man has attempted to advance back to godhood (the “Unknown God”) through the pursuit of knowledge. The worldview teaches that deity is locked in the flesh of humanity and needs deliverance by working back through the knowledge of *aeons* (Gnostic teachers and angels) to reach spirit deification. “Man” has no need of a Saviour and hence Jesus is not God manifest in the flesh, the divine Saviour of the human race. The Gnostics posit one

# GNOSTIC-LACED TEXTUAL VARIANTS IN I JOHN

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of two heresies about the incarnate God, the Lord Jesus Christ. First, the Gnostics teach that Jesus was adopted by the divine spirit at His baptism, supernaturally empowered, and then abandoned by the spirit at His death. This is called Adoptionism and is countered by I Jn. 2:22. Second, the Gnostics maintain that Jesus Christ “seemed” to be material in the flesh but was a mere phantom. This is called Docetism and is countered by I Jn. 4:3. The *First Epistle of John* repudiates Gnosticism, and consequently the Greek Text behind the “wrests” of the modern versions on the words of John to deceive, diffuse, diminish, detract, distract, and destroy John’s repudiation. The following are several examples of the diabolical attack through modern versions using the Gnostic-laced Critical Text to dismiss John’s clear exegesis of truth about the Lord Jesus Christ.

## Textual Variants

1. “*But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things*” (I Jn. 2:20). The *Critical Text* (CT) of the modern versions reads, “But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and **you all know**” (*NASV*). The noun “*all things*” (*panta*) is in the accusative case in the *Textus Receptus* (TR) but changed to the nominative case *pantes* and so reads “you all” know but with no object to the verb. The context is that believers know all things about the truth (v. 21).
2. “*Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren*” (I Jn. 3:16). The CT omitted “of God” (*NASV*) which reading is in the Scrivener TR as well as the Complutensian Polyglot Bible (1522).
3. “*And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus **Christ is come in the flesh** is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world*” (I Jn. 4:3). The CT omitted “Christ is come in the flesh” saying “*and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God...*” The CT omitted the key expression, and then posited a different “confession” which is not anti-gnostic, and consequently softening the defense against Gnosticism.
4. “*We love **him**, because he first loved us*” (I Jn. 4:19). The CT omitted the object of the Christian’s love and gave a grammatically incomplete statement, saying, “We love, because he first loved us” (*NASV*). Of course, the biblical statement would be an awkward expression for the Gnostic who is “god” (sic)!
5. “*This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth. <sup>7</sup> For there are three that bear record **in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.** <sup>8</sup> And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one*” (I Jn. 5:6-8). The CT omitted the great Trinitarian expression in the Bible, and truncated this whole defense against the Gnostics that the Lord Jesus Christ, Who is the “*Word*,” is indeed a member of the Triune Godhead (see I Tim. 3:16). The *NASV* reads, “This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood. <sup>7</sup> And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is the truth. <sup>8</sup> For there are three that bear witness, the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.” There are many theological and textual arguments for the inclusion of the words of the *Johannine Comma* (those in bold excised by the CT). The exegetical argument for the inclusion finds support from the earlier declaration of the Apostle John, who stated about

# GNOSTIC-LACED TEXTUAL VARIANTS IN I JOHN

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witnesses in Chiastic form, saying, “*He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all*” (Jn. 3:31 [see v. 32]).

- A. He that cometh from above is above all**
- B. He that is of the earth**
- B.’ Speaketh of the earth**
- A.’ He that cometh from heaven is above all**

In John’s *First Epistle*, probably to the same audience, he built off the truth and form of Jn. 3:31, and gave the decisive exegetical argument for the deity of the precious Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ:

- A. The Triadic Earthly Verification (v. 6): Water, Blood, Spirit**
- B. The Triadic Heavenly Verification (v. 7): Father, Word, Holy Ghost**
- A.’ The Triadic Earthly Verification (v. 8): Spirit, Water, Blood**

The three witnesses in v. 8 “*agree in one*,” literally “agree in **the** one,” and would refer back to the “*one*” in v. 7.

That is, the Spirit, Water, and Blood would agree with the unity of the Trinity, including the divine Word Jesus Christ.

Conversely, the parallel and Chiastic structure of the CT would be severely truncated and doctrinally inane:

- A. Earthly Verification (v. 6): Water, Blood**
- B. “Heavenly” Verification (v. 7): Spirit**
- A.’ Earthly Verification (v. 8): Spirit, Water, Blood**

The three witnesses in v. 8 “*agree in one*,” literally “agree in **the** one,” and would refer back to NOTHING! The Spirit, Water and Blood are in agreement to what?

6. “*These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God*” (I Jn. 5:13). The CT omitted the last clause, reading, “I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life” (*NIV*). Of course, this verse has the ring of Jn. 20:31. In both cases, John addressed dual groups in his audience; unbelievers with superficial faith or faith in a Gnostic “Christ,” and those with biblical faith in the true Christ.

7. “*Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen*” (I Jn. 5:21). The CT omitted the asseverative particle “*amen*” which means “truly” or “of a truth.” The *NASV* renders the CT as “Little children, guard yourselves from idols.” The Greek *amen* (151x) comes from the Hebrew ‘*amen* (137x) which means “truth.” The CT omitted nine references to “amen” in the NT. The ancient architects of the CT had a proclivity for omitting the exclamations of the biblical writers of “*truth*”!

*“Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.”*  
I Jn. 5:21

# PHOTOS

PHOTOS



Two recent music specials:  
The choir and Bill and Sabrina



A special visitor received lots of attention after a Wednesday night service.

6



**NURSERY FUN!**



SCHEDULE

## BBC/BBTS 2023-2024 SCHEDULE

**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 10**  
**BBTS Fall Lecture Series**  
Galilean Baptist Church  
Stafford Springs, CT  
TBA

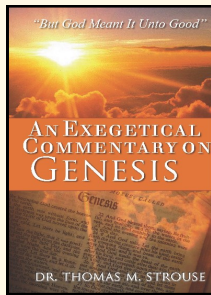
**December 10**  
**Commencement Service**  
Seoul, Korea

**2024**  
**January 1-5, 2024**  
**Ireland Module**  
TBA

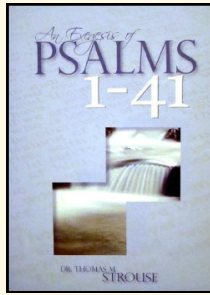
**January 15-19, 2024**  
**Fairhaven Baptist College**  
Chesterton, IN  
Module TBA

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

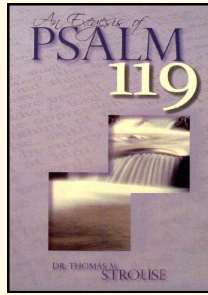
# The Publication Page



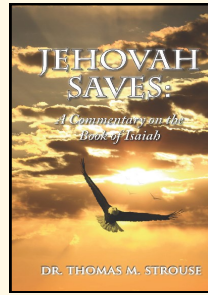
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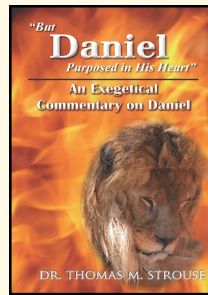
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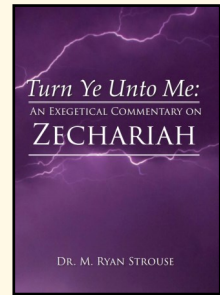
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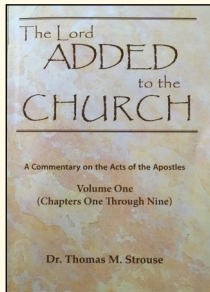
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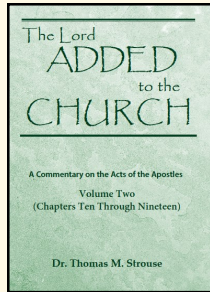
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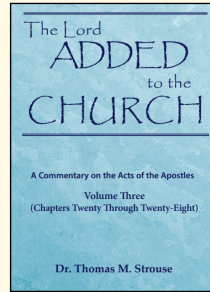
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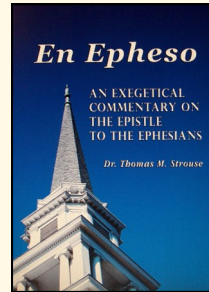
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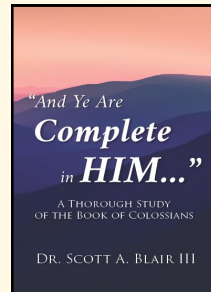
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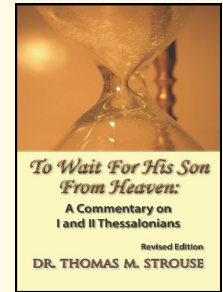
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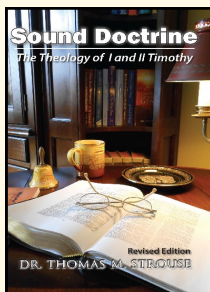
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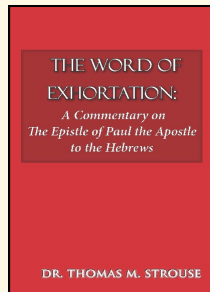
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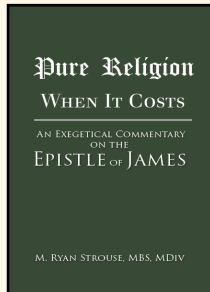
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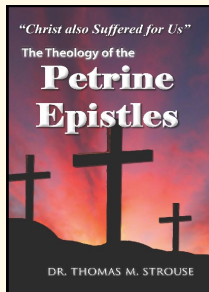
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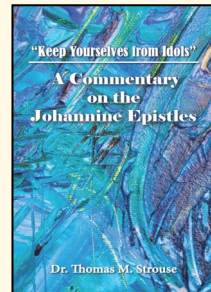
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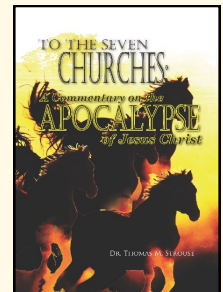
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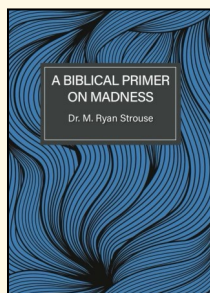
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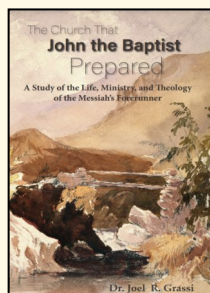
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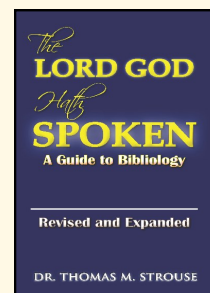
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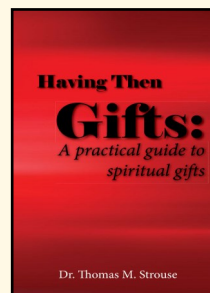
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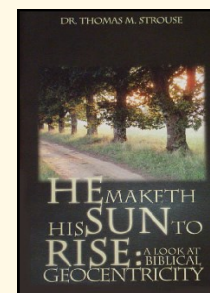
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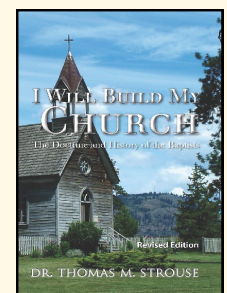
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Spiritual Gifts  
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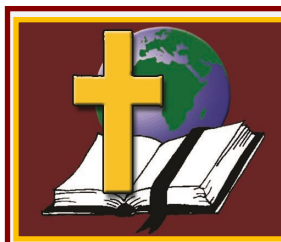
Geocentricity  
\$10.00



Baptist Doctrine & History  
\$15.00

These books may be purchased by contacting:  
Bible Baptist Church 860-229-5387 drtms\_bbts@juno.com

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