



BBC UPDATE

OBITUARY DR. ROBERT ZEMESKI

(January 1, 1945-December 3, 2022)



Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

My dear friend Dr. Robert Zemeski, missionary extraordinaire, is now with his Saviour! After an eighteen month savage battle with cancer, this soldier of the Lord went to his heavenly home. Brother Zemeski married lovely Kathi his childhood sweetheart (August 22, 1964), and raised four fine children, Ryan, Lana, Kyle, and Philip. The Zemeski family went to Ireland on April 5, 1979. Brother and Mrs. Zemeski were involved in starting a Baptist church in Ireland and turned it over to a national pastor.

This is the ultimate goal of biblical missions, but in reality, it is a rarity, accomplished only by hard work, prayer, and the grace of the Lord. Later, church planter Bob started the River Valley Baptist Church and pastored it until his health declined.

I met Missionary Zemeski in 2004 when he agreed to host a seminary module in his church building. He and gracious Kathi accommodated me in their home twice a year since then until 2019. During that time, scores of pastors and missionaries received seminary training in the Scriptures with several men receiving seminary theological degrees from Bible Baptist Theological Seminary. The Ireland module became the impetus for other foreign modules, such as those in Czech Republic, Dubai, India, Korea, Philippines, Portugal, and Puerto Rico.



He had several traits that were a blessing and a challenge to me. We are about the same age and had similar issues of life. Dr. Zemeski loved to study Scripture, discuss theology, and commiserate over pastoral issues with me. These traits may be organized around Paul's testimony, who said, "*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith*" (II Tim. 4:7). First, "Dr. Z," as we called him, was a **Fighter**. He fought for the truth, since he had a love for the truth and obeyed it. He fought with the heathen, with the Romanists, with the Protestants, and with the weak Baptist Union hypocrites. Second, he was **Finisher**. Many times, he could have quit missionary work in hard Catholic Ireland and gone home. He faced numerous challenges including physical ails, personal issues, financial concerns, pastoral and missionary disappointments, and doctrinal disagreements with naysayers. He taught, ministered, and encouraged missionary apprentices, experienced missionaries, and national pastors with biblical truth and Baptist courage. Thirdly, my friend Bob was **Faithful**. He was faithful to his wife, his family, his calling, his church, but most of all, to his Lord and Saviour. Moreover, he was faithful to the Bible, wanting to know about the word of God. He challenged everyone's interpretation until he was satisfied that it was true. He loved his *King James Bible* but was not a Ruckmanite.

I had the privilege to talk to him on FaceTime two days before he went to be with the Lord. We reminisced about the good times and the trying times that we went through together and separately. We laughed about some of the funny things we said and did. I told him I would see him again and soon. My dear friend is gone. He did not run in vain. His life could be summed up with Paul's statement, "*For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain*" (Phil. 1:21). Robert Zemeski has gained!

WHY DO WE HIDE?



M. Ryan Strouse

Do we maintain the presupposition that all believers are blissfully walking in the Spirit based on externalisms or their portrayed face value? As long as the cultural checklist of that church is in order, no questions or challenges are made at the heart? Maybe, we hide ourselves and don't want anyone to probe into our life. What are we hiding? Why are we hiding?

It is in our Adamic nature to hide our sin and our struggles (Gen.3:9-10; Rom.5:12). Insecurity, failure, fear of rejection, soured relationships, and unresolved conflicts that did not end well – these can quickly grow into shame. Consequently, our inner legalist kicks in and seeks to hide behind the checklist of communal norms. We put on an assuring face that declares “everything is fine!” We bask in self-righteousness and criticize others to provide a sense of superiority from our own self-loathing. Underneath the surface, we compartmentalize and hide these unresolved issues in our heart from the LORD. Just like Adam and Eve, we sow fig leaves and hide among the trees (Gen.3:8).

Prior to the fall, Adam and Eve were naked before the LORD, which reveals their peace and transparency with Him. There was no sin between them and the LORD, and no need to hide from Him. Their nakedness pictured the full transparency, comfort, and ease with the LORD in their own skin. Sin causes one to hide. Hiding from God leads to hiding from others; ultimately, hiding results in paralyzing fear that often drives one into isolation and other sins of self-reliance (Prov.3:5-6).

Specifically, it can be difficult to admit one's failure; usually, our pride inhibits us from admitting wrongdoing. Like Adam, we blame another for our own sin (Gen.3:12). Being confronted by the Word of God allows the Holy Spirit to provide precision conviction of sin. Therefore, it becomes a task to share one's daily challenge to walk in Spirit (Gal.5:16-17), have the fruit of the Spirit (Gal.5:22), and be filled with the Spirit (Eph.5:18). Hence, one may cease from talking about the Spirit-filled life to avoid the heart issue. In time, the weight of carrying one's own burdens in self-reliance can cripple, exhaust, and squelch hope in the Lord Jesus Christ. Subsequently, many Christians can struggle with uncontrolled fear and/or sadness, which if unmitigated can lead down a dark path.

The path to peace and transparency with the LORD is through repentance and confession of the inner compartments of the heart. Psalm 51:5-6 states, “*Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: And in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*” Repentance leads to forgiveness and restoration, which provides peace with the LORD. Psalm 51:12 reveals, “*Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; And uphold me with thy free spirit.*” The repentant and forgiven believer no longer needs to hide; they can stand naked and transparent before the LORD.

The Apostle Paul was transparent about his struggle to walk in the Spirit in Romans 7:19, “*For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.*” Subsequently, he declared, “*O wretched man that I am*” regarding the frustration that ensues a life that grieves the Holy Spirit (Rom.7:24; cf. Eph.4:29-30). Similarly, David declared his hatred for “*Vain thoughts*” (*se-eph* - split mind - faith vs unbelief) in Psalm 119:113. These men were transparent and purposeful about their struggles with the flesh so that they would implore themselves to obey the Word by the grace of the LORD.

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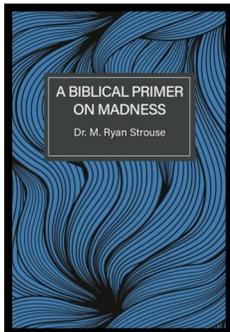
WHY DO WE HIDE?

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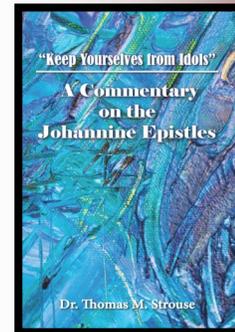
The LORD went on to cover Adam and Eve with animal skins. The LORD provided a bloody sacrifice, and the skins represented His covering of their sin (Gen.3:21). The repentant and forgiven sinner is covered by the blood of Christ (Ex.12:1-13), which appeases the wrath of God toward our sin (Lev.1:1-10; Is.53; Rom.5:1; I Pt.3:18). Galatians 3:27 reveals, “*For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*” The Greek word behind “put on” is ἐνδύω (*endyo*), which means “to be clothed.” Transparent repentance of the recesses in one’s heart leads to forgiveness and the riches of being clothed and covered by the Lord Jesus Christ! In turn, the believer can “...*come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need*” (Heb.4:16).

Do we make the habit of recognizing how the battle went? “*Sadness won today*” “*Fear won today*” “*Lust won today*” “*Anger won today*” Like Paul, failure in the flesh urged him to turn to the Lord and walk in the Spirit (Rom.8:1). Pastors and churches need to (continue) to model these Biblical behaviors, which should be reciprocated by the members. Dive into the hearts of the church members. Provide them safety to seek counsel on the challenging areas of their life. Instill hope in the Lord Jesus Christ and His Word. We all hide and tend towards self-reliance. Instead, we need to implore another to Walk in the Spirit and rely on Christ and His Word through visceral conversations of Agape love in Christ.

NEW BOOKS



Bible Baptist Church is pleased to announce the soon printing of two new books on biblical truth. Dr. M. Ryan Strouse has ready for printing his expanded material from the Bible Baptist Theological Seminary Fall Lecture Series entitled *A Biblical Primer on Madness* (50 pages). As well, the new commentary entitled *Keep Yourselfes From Idols. A Commentary on the Johannine Epistles* (325 pages) by Dr. Thomas M. Strouse will be soon published.



BBC/BBTS 2022-2023 SCHEDULE

December 18

13th Anniversary Banquet

January 9-14, 2023

Ireland Module

Gospel of John and Johannine Epistles

April 21, 2023

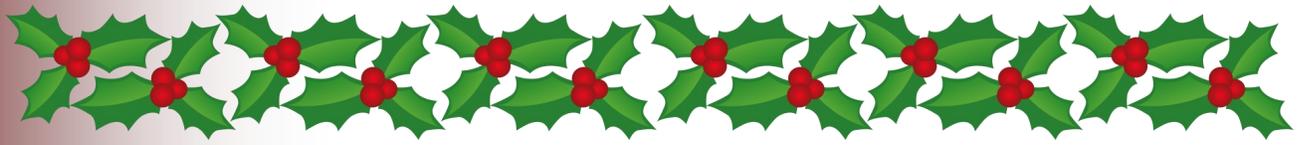
BBTS Spring Lecture Series

Galilean Baptist Church

Stafford Springs, CT

13TH ANNIVERSARY POEM FOR 2022

Mrs. Kirsten Gagnon



2022 marks our thirteenth year —
A brief recap you'll see here.
There may be things missed I fear,
But not intentionally – let's be clear.

In January, the Book of Job Pastor did start,
And we're not yet even to the halfway part.
Job's "friends" thought they were pretty smart,
But Job had no secret sin in his heart.

A mailer to 12,000 homes was sent.
We had a few visitors who came and went.
We know it was money well spent,
Because getting the Gospel out was our intent.

Of course, we cannot forget
The homegoing of sister Bernadette.
Because Jesus paid our debt,
In Heaven Bob Zemeski she just met!

Graduation was at the Marriott.
A C.O.T. Andrew got.
Ryan received a Doctorate.
The eight graduates learned a lot.

It was pretty cool
To have our first Graduation from homeschool,
Where Sophia proved she's no fool.
We also hosted a Seminary module.

We also published two commentaries.
Pastor finished *Acts: Volume 3*.
Ryan wrote *Zechariah: Turn unto me*.
Also a book that looks at madness Biblically.

The Dudley's finally made it up our way.
Tom Baker showed an archeological survey.
The Wilhites came on Labor Day.
Dr. Raquintin checked up on Aiko Tinte.

After many months of prayers,
Pastor and Jan traveled ancient thoroughfares
In Israel with the Wareings and the Blairs.
An experience to which not much compares.

Darrell Nelson and Jenny were wed.
The livestream ministry did Aiko spearhead.
We know that the Lord has led
As we continue to look ahead.

Now as we start 2023,
Let us flee from idolatry.
Have faithful accountability.
And preach the truth unapologetically!



Some of the faithful men in BBC



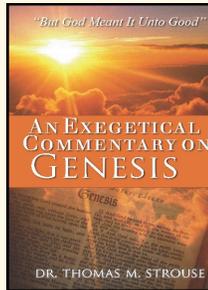
The Funeral Service can be viewed by accessing the following link : <https://reillysfuneralhome.ie/live-stream/>

The Publication Page

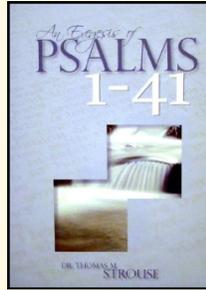
These books may be purchased by contacting:

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

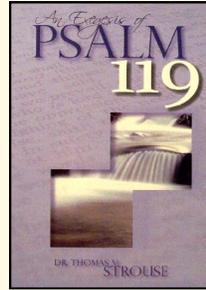
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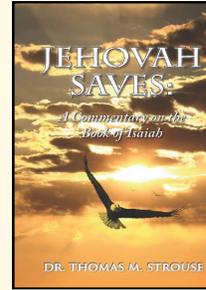
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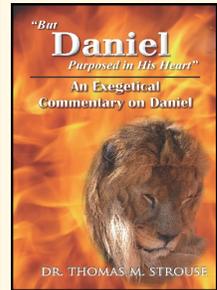
Psalms 1-41
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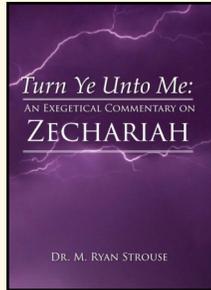
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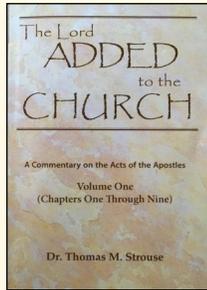
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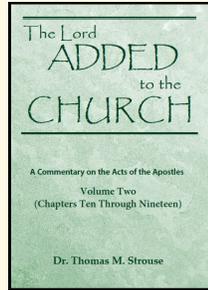
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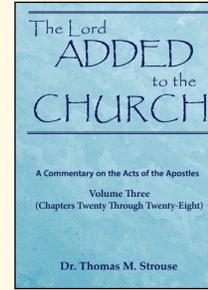
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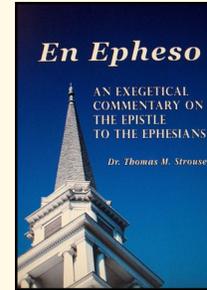
Acts 1-9
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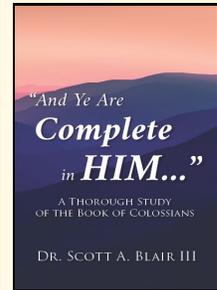
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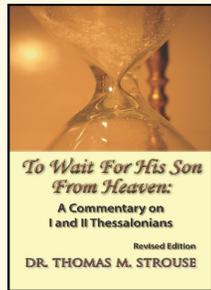
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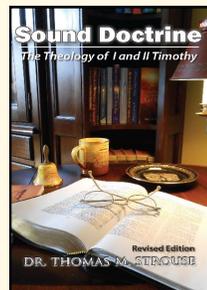
Ephesians
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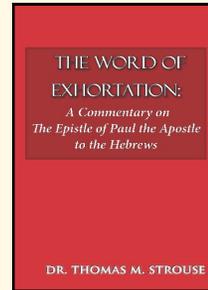
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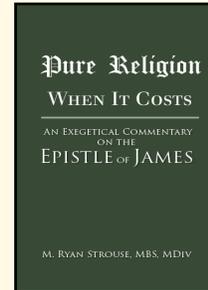
1 & 2 Thessalonians
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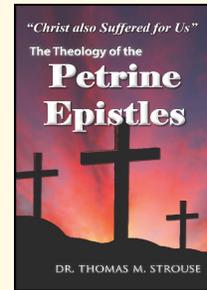
1 & 2 Timothy
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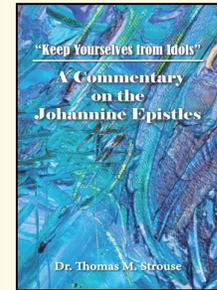
Hebrews
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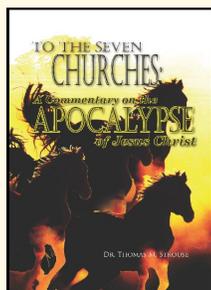
James
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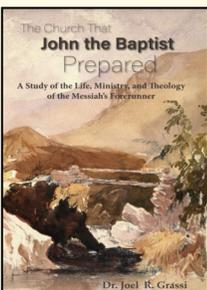
1 & 2 Peter
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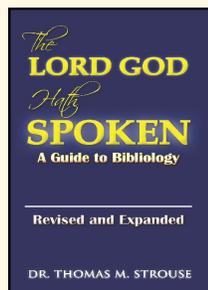
Johannine Epistles
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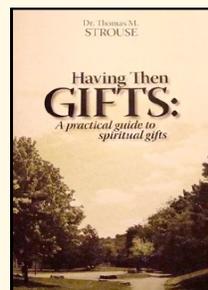
Revelation
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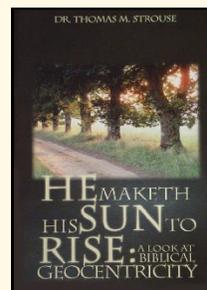
John the Baptist
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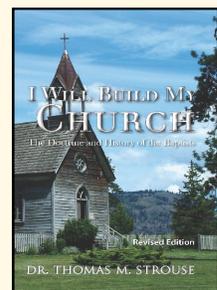
Bibliology
\$15.00



Spiritual Gifts
\$8.00

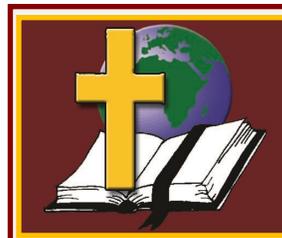
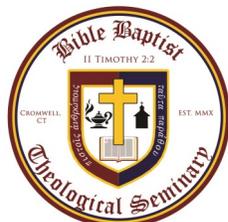


Geocentricity
\$10.00



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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