



BBC UPDATE

A BIBLICAL REVIEW OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND MADNESS – PART ONE



M. Ryan Strouse

Introduction

The divine power of the Lord Jesus Christ has “*Given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness*” through the everlasting Word of God. In particular, God’s Word reveals the remedy for mankind’s sin cursed spirit (mind, heart, conscience) and body, which ravishes the world through the voracious spiritual conditions known as mental illness. Modern medicine rejects the Biblical anthropology that man is created in the image of God as a soul that is comprised of a spirit (mind, heart, conscience) and body (Gen.1:27, 2:7). Instead, modern psychology follows the theory of materialism and determinism enshrined by Charles Darwin, which denotes that the human body is only material flesh that can be observed; subsequently, they treat the mind as a by-product of the materialistic human brain with unproven treatments (i.e., electric shock therapy, pharmaceuticals). The ramification of this un-illuminated thinking is the brain-dysfunction theory, which was popularized by Emil Kraepelin and underpins diagnosis and treatment of mental illness. The brain-dysfunction theory rejects the Biblical dualism (soul = spirit and body) and refuses the mind’s independence from the brain; instead, it denotes that the mind is a by-product of the physical brain and needs physical treatment. Pharmaceutical therapy only masks the symptoms of mental illness, it does not treat or improve the health of one’s spiritual nature. The Word of God provides clarity and insight into the curse of sin on the spirit and the body, and reveals that “*Madness*” of the spirit is a consequence of a sin-cursed soul that is deceived and disobeys the Word of God in part or in whole (Deut.28:28). Furthermore, the demonic realm seeks to keep the lost deceived and the saved oppressed through spiritual warfare, which can propound the vicious cycle of sin and its consequences on the mind and body (Eph.6:10-20). The Lord Jesus Christ is the remedy for man’s curse to restore peace with Jehovah (Jn.3:36). Colossians 2:9-10 extols Him as the solution, “*For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.*” This series is an effort to provide a Biblical perspective to churches and Christians regarding mental illness.

The Current Problem

Madness (or mental illness) has been around since the fall of Adam in the Garden of Eden; from Cain’s fit of rage to commit murder (Gen.4:1-6) to Elijah’s paralyzing fear of Jezebel (I Kgs.19:1-10) to the believers that fled truth in trying times and became double-minded, unstable, immoral, and murderous (Jms.1:8; 4:1-4). Varying studies suggest different percentages of the population that suffer from “Mental illness;” however, the Word of God declares that all mankind has the predisposition to spiritual and physical illness because of the curse of sin - “*For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not*” (Eccl.7:20; Rom.5:12). In essence, fundamental sins of pride and fear of man, which go

A BIBLICAL REVIEW OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND MADNESS

unmitigated by raw self-reflection in the Word of God (Ps.51; Jms.1:19-15) and repentance, can spiral out of control within one's heart and remain undetected for years until they manifest outwardly and negatively impact activities of normal daily living. As well, the wicked heart deceives oneself in response to traumatic events or actions, which if not curtailed by turning to Christ can propound into a worsened spiritual response of bizarre behavior. Furthermore, incessant binging of social media stokes the internal issues of the heart as it is dominated by the "Perfect" egocentric individuals that post their "Perfect" life; however, it is consumed by the envious that grow ungrateful and bitter, and it establishes an unbiblical benchmark on what God values. Subsequently, anxiety, depression, and bizarre behavior abound in varying degrees in a sight-based world that neglects to be "*Complete in Him*" (Col.2:10).

On top of mankind's intrinsic sin nature, Satan and the demonic realm continue to deceive, accuse, and tempt mankind's wicked and lustful heart with the "*Lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life*" (I Jn.2:16; Jer.17:9; Eph.6:10). Furthermore, mankind continues to open their spirits to demonic oppression and possession through modernized and normalized occult practices of old,¹ such as drugs (legalized marijuana),² alcohol, piercings, tattoos,³ immorality, and human sacrifice - abortion (Lev.19:28; Deut.14:1, 18:10). Overt occultism has been rampant since the Satanic lies of the Garden of Eden, but has been mostly concealed during the twentieth century in America; nevertheless, the point to be made is that the modernized American culture and some Christians partake in the "*Tried-and-True*" procedural elements of summoning demonic forces in a less macabre and occultic manner.

In particular, many stripes of American Christianity (including some Baptists) have "egg on their face" in regard to their insistent rejection of scriptures ban on alcohol and their approval of drinking alcoholic beverages for a wide array of reasons (i.e., Christian liberty, Jesus drank wine, opens doors for the Gospel, everything in moderation, community congeniality, and soft, vague interpretations of scripture); however, pre- and post- COVID empirical medical research⁴ reveal that alcohol has a significant negative impact on health and is considered a "Normalized deviance" for health and wellness that can no longer be

¹British historian of the occult, Richard Cavendish, notes the universal ingredients of ritual magic used by various cults over the course of history to summon demons: "There is not much doubt that the procedures of ritual magic are likely to cause hallucinations. The magician prepares himself by either abstinence and lack of sleep, or by drink, drugs, and sex. He breathes in fumes which may affect his brain and senses. He performs mysterious rites which tug at the deepest, most emotional and unreasoning levels of his mind, and he is further intoxicated by the killing of an animal, the wounding of a human being." Furthermore, he states that human blood and sacrifice was the most superior and effective form to summon the demonic realm; namely, "A male child of perfect innocence and high intelligence is the most satisfactory victim." Occult leader, Montague Summers, reported that he sacrificed 150 children per year from 1912 to 1928. Cavendish, R. *The Black Arts*. New York, Tarcher-Perigree, 1967, p.238.

²There is growing empirical connections that cannabis use is connected to schizophrenic diagnosis. Wade, M. Does smoking cannabis increase the risk of developing schizophrenia? *The Royal College of Psychiatrists*.

³The prevalence of tattooing has dramatically increased among American youth from about 16% in 2001 to 29% in 2015. Laumann AE, Kluger N, Perez-Cotapos ML. *History and Epidemiology of Tattoos and Piercings: Legislation in the United States and in Europe*. In De Cuyper C., ed. *Dermatologic Complications with Body Art* (2nd edn). Heidelberg, Germany: Springer; 2018; 1-19.

⁴Mehta and Sheron's research reveals that physicians can no longer recommend a safe level of alcohol consumption because moderate amounts can have cumulative negative effects on morbidity and mortality. Former recommendations such as a glass of wine for dinner can no longer be recommended. They recognize alcohol consumption as a normalized deviance and indicate that it will continue to be a problem globally. Mehta, G. and Sheron, N. No Safe Level of Alcohol Consumption – implications for global health. *Journal of Hepatology*, vol.70 2019, p.587-589.

recommended in any safe level. Unfortunately, it will take empirical evidence⁵ to help some realign with scripture (Gen.9:20-25; Prov.23:29-35, 31:4-8; Habb.2:15). Christianity was the barrier against alcohol in America until the shift in Biblical interpretation of the topic by Generation X (born between 1965-84) and Millennials (1985-1994) in the last two decades. Community drinking in moderation became the standard expression of “*Christian liberty*,” but would become a baseline anxiolytic to provide temporary peace from the day’s burdens. Consequently, only a remnant of Christians abstained from any alcohol consumption. Presently, there is a glow among the unregenerate community (primarily liver physicians) that values health and wellness, which praises those who abstain from alcohol as models of fitness! Sadly, Alcohol is the most common anti-depressant and anxiolytic in the world for unbelievers and some Christians, which is contrary to Ephesians 5:18, “*And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.*” Believers are to combat anxiety and fear as they walk in the Spirit and rely on the sufficiency of Christ, not under the control of substances (II Cor.12:9-10). The prevalence of alcohol use must be considered as contributory to the exacerbated state of mental health *in all degrees of severity* by Christians, not just unregenerate scientists.⁶

In short, mental illness abounds in a world that rejects the Word of God in part or in whole. Self-control, self-reflection, and repentance are assuaged by secular constructs and labeled as physical disease. The root of this issue is the disconnection of souls from their Creator because of the curse of sin, which positionally and practically keeps them from peace (Is.57:21; Jn.3:36). While believers who have turned to Christ in faith and repentance have positional peace with the LORD, they can walk in the flesh and experience the anxiety, depression, and fear offered by a fallen world that is full of chaos. Summarily, Isaiah 57:20-21 reveals, “*But the wicked are like the troubled sea, When it cannot rest, Whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.*”

Authority of the Word of God

The authority, supremacy, and cleansing of the Word of God is central to understanding and combatting mental illness; furthermore, understanding the effects of the curse of sin on the soul is through the Word. Hebrews 11:3 reveals, “*Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.*” In particular, the focal point of Jehovah’s creation is the soul of man “*Created man in his own image*” (Gen.1:27; 2:7). Mankind was made by the Word of God and is sustained by the Word of God. Psalm 138:2 reveals the supremacy of the Word, “*Thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.*” The Word is the Light that “*Shineth in darkness*” (Jn.1:5). Obedience to the Word brings spiritual and physical blessing to souls; Psalm 119:1-2 states, “*Blessed are the undefiled in the way, Who walk in the law of the LORD. Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, And that seek him with the whole heart.*” Cleansing of the spiritual aspect

⁵How often do Christians require empirical evidence to believe Truth like Thomas? John 20:24-29 reveals his attitude toward the resurrected Christ, “Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

⁶Evangelicals of all stripes that allow Christian liberty to drink alcohol have a difficult time navigating moderate alcohol use among non-addicts, and then switching gears to helping alcohol addicts recover from addiction. As well, the number of empirical correlations between alcohol use and mental illness provides another obstacle for Biblical counselors that condone alcohol consumption to navigate. Job 33:14 reveals the plight of the believer’s inability to forgo pride and receive truth from scripture, “For God speaketh once, yea twice, yet man perceiveth it not” (Prov.23:29-35). Puddephatt, J. Jones, A. Gage, S. Associations of alcohol use, mental health and socioeconomic status in England: Findings from a representative population survey. Drug Alcohol Dependence, 2021, volume 219.

A BIBLICAL REVIEW OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND MADNESS

of one's soul is through the Word of God; Psalm 119:9 declares, "*Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word.*" Finally, II Peter 1:3 makes known that all aspects of life can be found in the Word of God, "*As his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness.*" Christians can "*Know all things*" (I Jn.2:20) by being planted in the "*Pillar and ground of Truth*" (I Tim.3:15), by being Spirit-filled (Eph.5:18), and by "*Rightly dividing the word of Truth*" (II Tim.2:15).

Sovereignty of God

This author makes the disclaimer that this review of biblical anthropology and madness is an effort to organize Biblical truth and empirical evidence to provide a clear construct from the mind of God regarding mental illness. In an effort to *not* be like Job's friends that misapplied scripture and seemingly placed "God in a box" by their cause-and-effect approach (Job 33:14-17), this author reveres the sovereignty and supremacy of the LORD over His creation. Many cases of mental illness can stretch beyond man's finite understanding of cause-and-effect into a realm that is extremely challenging to comprehend. Nevertheless, Spirit-filled church members have the promises of I John 1:20, "*Ye know all things*" and II Peter 1:3, "*As his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness.*"

Choices and Repentance

At the root of the secular mental health construct is the deceptive agenda to provide an excuse for one's sinful choice, response, and behavior, which then prevents one from self-reflecting on their sinful heart and turning to Christ in repentance. The secular construct has provided labels and categories to allow individuals to pull out that "*Card*" to justify sinful behavior to normal experiences of life in a fallen world that negatively impacts those around them. The deterministic theories of nature vs nurture provide rationales for behavior because of brain-dysfunction, environmental issues, and traumatic events. It erodes the truth of personal accountability for sin, dependence on the Lord, and removes the need for repentance. While traumatic events, emotional, physical, and verbal abuse abound in the sin-cursed world and greatly influence a response, each individual still has the personal choice and volition to turn to the LORD or respond in the flesh. The book of *James* focuses on responding to diverse troubles in a Christ-like manner when it comes at great personal cost and pain; "*My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations*" (Jms.1:2).

Ecclesiastes 12:14 reveals, "*For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.*" Every work will be judged, despite the excuse secular medicine provides to assuage guilt. Likewise, Galatians 6:7 declares, "*Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.*" Man will sow the blessings and curses of each choice he makes (Deut.28:1-15). The *Torah* upheld the principle of personal responsibility and accountability; Deuteronomy 24:16 reveals, "*The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, neither shall the children be put to death for the fathers: every man shall be put to death for his own sin.*" Parents cannot be judged for the sins their children make, and children cannot be judged for the sins and mistakes of their parents. Furthermore, Ezekiel 18:20 declared, "*The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.*" Label or no label, each man owns his action, choice, and response despite the trouble that falls upon them.

A BIBLICAL REVIEW OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND MADNESS

In the modern construct, King David could have blamed his sheltered childhood as a shepherd boy, or his resentful wife, Michal, for his murder of Uriah and sin with Bathsheba (I Sam.16:11-12; II Sam.6:16). However, David modeled self-reflection and repentance in Psalm 51:2-4, "*Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: And my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, And done this evil in thy sight: That thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, And be clear when thou judgest.*" Let each individual self-reflect their response to personal sin, others sin, and natural causes of a fallen world; does it take ownership of sin and depend on Christ to heal wounds? Or is it steeped in shame, deflection, fear, blame, and deception?

BBC/BBTS 2022 SCHEDULE

May 15, 2022

Thirteenth Annual BBTS Commencement
Service
Cromwell, CT

July 25-29

Calvary Ind. Baptist Church
Plymouth, NH
"Biblical Geography"

June 6-10

Community Baptist Church
Coopersburg, PA
"The Johannine Epistles"

August 22-26

Fairhaven Baptist College
Chesterton, IN
Acts, Vol. 1 (Chapters 1-9)

GRADUATION WEEKEND

Plans for the Bible Baptist Theological Seminary graduation weekend include two dissertation defenses, the Graduation Banquet, and the Graduation service. First, on Friday, May 13, 2022 (6-8 PM), Mr. M. Ryan Strouse will defend his Doctoral Dissertation on the subject, "*Turn Ye Unto Me,*" An Exegesis of the Book of Zechariah (506 pp.). On Saturday, May 14, 2022 (10 AM-Noon), Mr. Clint Schreiber will defend his Doctoral Dissertation on the subject of "I Know that my Redeemer Liveth," An Examination of the Book of Job (328 pp.). At 5:00 PM on Saturday, May 14, 2022, Bible Baptist Church will honor the eight candidates for graduation with a banquet at the Marriott Courtyard, Cromwell, CT (nursery provided). On Sunday, May 15, 2022, the regular church services will meet at 10 AM (Sunday School), 11 AM (Preaching), and 12:30 PM (Commencement). The candidates include Mr. Andrew Williams (Certificate of Theology); three international students from Bible Baptist Church of Dubai: Mr. Avelino DeGuzman, Jr., Mrs. Mary Jane DeGuzman, and Mr. Ramil Radok, Master of Biblical Studies, *in absentia*; Pastor Adam Shedal, Master of Biblical Studies, Pastor David Smith, Master of Biblical Studies, Mr. M. Ryan Strouse, Master of Theology; Mr. Clint Schreiber, Doctor of Theology; and Mr. M. Ryan Strouse, Doctor of Theology. We are thankful for these serious students of Scripture and pray for the Lord's future blessings as they serve the precious Saviour Jesus Christ.



THE SERVANTS OF THE LORD

“And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come”
Luke 19:13



Pastor Cas Reeves

We are told that Jesus Christ is “... *Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful*” (Revelations 17:14). The Greek word for lord is “*kurios*” which signifies: power, authority and ownership. It is translated not only lord, but sometimes, master, owner and Sir. By its usage, we learn that we are the property of Jesus Christ. We became His when we were saved. At that time, he becomes our Lord, the master of our life. The Apostle Paul introduced himself as, “*Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ*” (Romans 1:1). Literally, he said, he was “a slave” of Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul knew and declared his position as a servant of Christ.

What is required of the servants of the Lord Jesus? In Luke 19:11-27, we find a parable, which gives us insights into what is expected or required of the servants of the Lord.

- 1.) **Submissiveness** (vs.13) “*he called*” Compare with Romans 12:1-2.
- 2.) **Obedience** (vs.13) “*occupy*” He commanded them to “trade” (hapax legomenon)
- 3.) **Faithfulness** (vs.13) “*till I come*” Compare with 1 Corinthians 4:2.
- 4.) **Accountability** (vs.15) “*that he might know*” Compare with Romans 14:12.
- 5.) **Trust/fear of the Lord** (vs.22) “*thou knewest*” Compare with Proverbs 3:5.
- 6.) **Expectation of Justice** (vs.24) “*take from him*” Compare with 1 Corinthians 3:11-15.

As genuine Believers in Christ, we should be able to say, as did the Apostle Paul, that we are servant-slaves of Jesus Christ; or that Jesus Christ is the Lord of our life. Are you a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ?

QUOTES FROM THE PAST

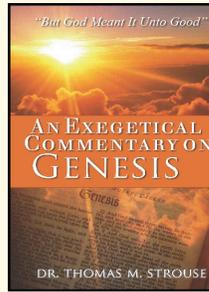


*“Only from heaven can we expect
'pleasure forevermore',
and 'everlasting joy.'”*

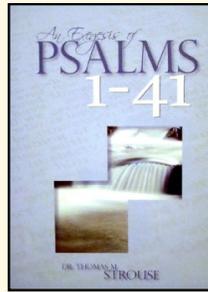
Charles H. Spurgeon
(1834-1892)
Renowned English Baptist Pastor

THE BOOK CORNER

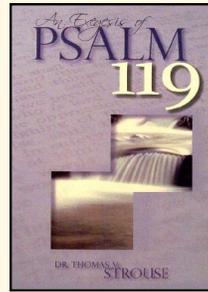
These books may be purchased through
 Bible Baptist Church
 40 Country Squire Dr.
 Cromwell, CT 06416
 860-229-5387
 drtms_bbts@juno.com



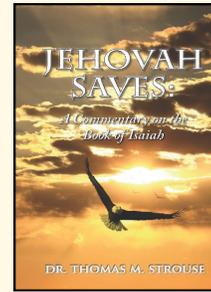
Genesis \$20.00



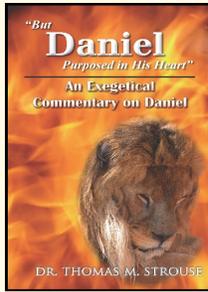
Psalms 1-41 \$20.00



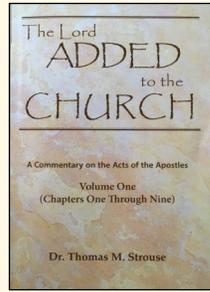
Psalm 119 \$20.00



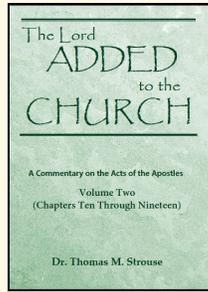
Isaiah \$20.00



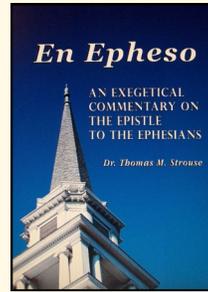
Daniel \$20.00



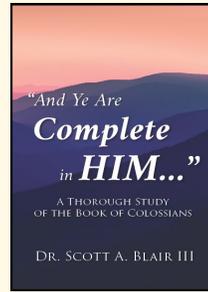
Acts 1-9 \$30.00



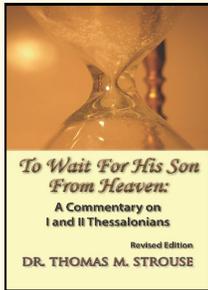
Acts 10-19 \$40.00



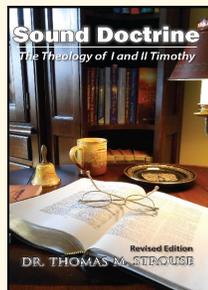
Ephesians \$20.00



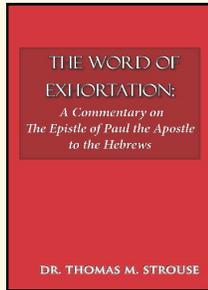
Colossians \$20.00



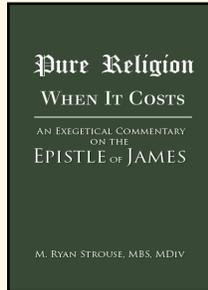
1 & 2 Thessalonians \$20.00



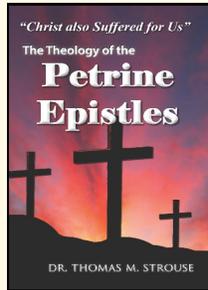
1 & 2 Timothy \$20.00



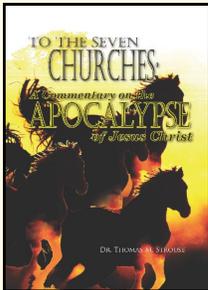
Hebrews \$30.00



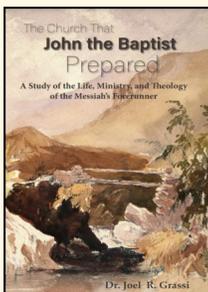
James \$30.00



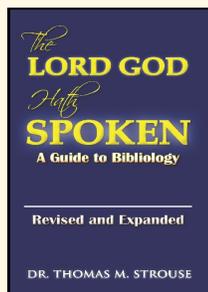
1 & 2 Peter \$20.00



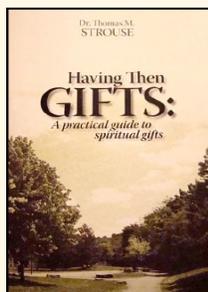
Revelation \$30.00



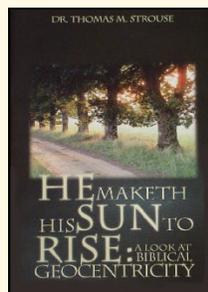
John the Baptist \$35.00



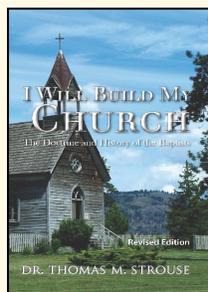
Bibliology \$15.00



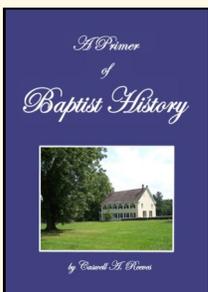
Spiritual Gifts \$8.00



Geocentricity \$10.00

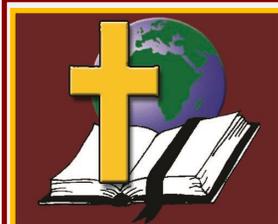


Baptist Doctrine & History \$15.00



Baptist History \$20.00

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



Bible Baptist Theological Seminary
 A Ministry of Bible Baptist Church
 40 Country Squire Drive
 Cromwell, CT 06416
 860-613-2096
 www.bbc-cromwell.org