



BBC UPDATE

BBC LABOR DAY COOKOUT



Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

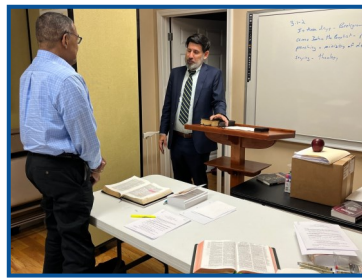


On September 2, 2024, the LORD gave a beautiful day for the 20th annual cookout at the Strouse House for the Bible Baptist Church members and Bible Baptist Theological Seminary students and graduates. About sixty friends and families from churches in CT, MA, and NH came and enjoyed the food, and fellowship, croquet competition, and preaching. One of the young “Mighty Men” of Bible Baptist Church, Mr. Marquis Burrell, gave a challenging message from I Jn. 1:1-4. Although some were on a “bear watch” from recent sightings of these uninvited creatures, none showed up. We are thankful for the fellowship around the truth of God’s Word with these and other biblical assemblies in New England.

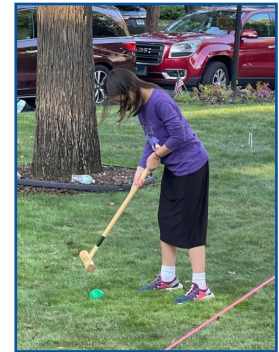
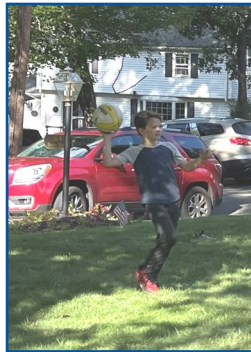


JOHN THE BAPTIST COURSE

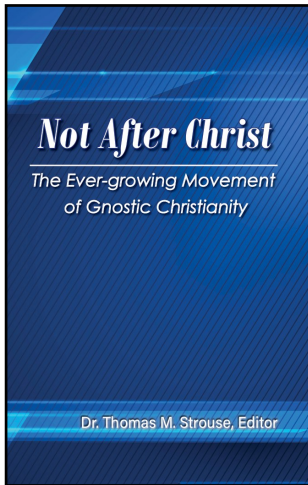
Bible Baptist Theological Seminary is privilege to have former graduate Dr. Joel Grassi teach through his doctoral dissertation and now book entitled *The Church that John the Baptist Prepared* (824 pp.) for the Fall semester. Although many books have been written on the life and ministry of John the Baptist, most come from the Reformed or non-Baptist perspective. Not so with this commentary, since Dr. Grassi writes from the independent Baptist viewpoint and therefore biblical position. There is still time to enroll and also to purchase his outstanding commentary.



LABOR DAY COOKOUT PHOTOS



Not After Christ. The Ever-growing Movement of Gnostic Christianity (297 pages)
 Dr. Thomas M. Strouse, Editor



The spiritual battle of the ages has been between Christ and Satan, starting in the Garden of Eden. The battle has not changed as Satan has continually attempted to diminish the Person and Work of the Lord Jesus Christ to his exaltation. The biblical writers have constantly warned about the pervasive and persuasive “Lies of the Garden” (deathlessness and deification of man) which have been perpetuated within the fallen adamic race. As the Lord loves His Baptist assemblies, Satan hates them! The Apostle Paul succinctly addressed the place and the program of the Lord’s will for this dispensation, saying, *“These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is **the church of the living God**, the pillar and ground of the*

*truth. And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifest in the flesh**, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory”* (I Tim.3:15-16). The place is the Baptist assembly which has the offices of bishop and deacon (I Tim. 3:1-13), and also has the focus on the program which teaches and practices the central Bible doctrine *“God was manifest in the flesh.”*

Again, the Apostle Paul gave the biblical truth about Christ while refuting Gnosticism to the Colossian Baptist Church, saying, *“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and **not after Christ**. 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”* (Col. 2:8-10). With the decreasing focus on the Person and Work of the Lord Jesus Christ, the advancement of the “goodness” and the works of man increases. Accepted carnality in the Lord’s assembly trends towards revisiting the old nature and pre-conversion lifestyle, and results in the loss of spiritual discernment and ultimately in spiritual blindness. The diminishing of the deity of the God-Man promotes the deification of man. This theological and practical “slippery slope” begins with Fragmented Gnosticism and bottoms out with Full-blown Gnosticism. In fact, Peter warned carnal church members, saying, *“And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and **hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins**”* (II Pet. 1:5-9)!

Instead, the Lord’s Baptist assemblies have the responsibility to focus on the precious Saviour and the desire to please Him with godly living. As churches become carnal and worldly, the focus on pleasing the Lord Jesus becomes less and less to the extent that His Person and Work becomes obscured. Man-centered Christianity becomes the easy target for man-centered theology with Gnostic fragments undermining the biblical Christ. Carnal Christianity is ripe for Gnosticism. The Pharisaical self-righteousness of much of

established Christianity in the mega-churches, emergent-churches, conservative independent churches, fundamental churches, and fundamental Baptist churches, especially in the west, tend to focus on self-indulgent love and self-esteem ideology. This carnality undermines biblical accountability and encourages the unbiblical liberty of “no judgment” in the areas immodest dress, alcohol consumption, worldly music, night-club atmosphere of church services, non-descript praise songs, etc.

James warned about man’s wisdom infiltrating the Lord’s assemblies, saying, “*Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish*” (Jam. 3:13-15). Devilish wisdom opens the door for devilish doctrine known as Gnosticism.

The Christian should realize that Gnosticism is not merely an interesting cult to examine in his spare time! It is imperative to know one’s enemy! Many Christians, pastors, and theologians are ignorant of “*the wiles of the devil*” (Eph. 6:11), and hence their deception and ultimate destruction.

The Judeo-Christian Scriptures introduce the Unknown God Jehovah Who the angels, prophets, and apostles make known in their source of revelatory truth, the Bible. The Unknown god of Gnosticism is known through the angels, teachers, and gurus in their esoteric writings. The Bible teaches that God indwells the repentant sinner whereas Gnosticism teaches that the “spark of divinity” indwells all men. The Christian must have spiritual advancement (sanctification) in this lifetime whereas spiritual advancement for the Gnostic is through numerous reincarnated lifetimes. For the Christian, salvation gives deliverance from the old nature of flesh whereas for the Gnostic salvation gives deliverance from the flesh. The Christian resurrection gives salvation for the flesh whereas the Gnostic reincarnation gives salvation from the flesh. Jesus was God manifested in the flesh whereas all men are gods manifested in the flesh. Jesus is the God-Man whereas Gnosticism teaches that Jesus was the adopted man or the phantom man. Christianity teaches that Jesus is One Person with Two Natures, whereas Gnosticism teaches that Jesus was two persons with two natures. The death of Jesus saves man in the flesh whereas the death of man saves god in the flesh. Jesus is the *Pleroma* whereas in Gnosticism the gods are in the *pleroma*. Faith in the work of Jesus completes the believer whereas faith in man’s works never completes. Jesus is the creator of and is greater than angels whereas in Gnosticism angels are highest in *Pleroma*. Finally, Christianity gives assurance of salvation whereas Gnosticism never gives assurance (see chart below).

Satan has cleverly mutilated the truth about Christ and the *Pleroma* so that within Christian churches many will trust and worship another Jesus, another Spirit, or another Gospel to their eternal damnation. The Corinthian Baptist Church had those that denied the resurrection (I Cor. 15:12) as did the Ephesian Baptist Church (II Tim. 2:17-18).

The purpose of the compilation of articles about Gnosticism is to acquaint, instruct, and warn Christian church members about the many facets of Gnosticism, including doctrine, finances, martial arts, media, music, (Hip Hop, praise songs, etc.), and translations, which creep into the Lord’s assemblies perpetuating fragments of full-blown Gnosticism. When a Christ-centered doctrinal church begins to slip towards a man-centered pragmatic church,

Satan has a toe-hold to flip eventually the assembly into full-blown worldly Gnosticism where the Lord Jesus Christ is not known nor welcomed.

Peter warned the scattered Baptist assemblies, saying, *“But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not”* (II Pet. 2:1-3). So also Jude, who warned, saying, *“For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ”* (Jude 1:4).

The Lord Jesus said, *“He that is not with me is against me”* (Lk. 11:23). This was true with Lucifer and is true with the adamic race. Carnality is *“not after Christ”* but pursues man-centered behaviour and belief, ultimately progressing toward fragmented and then full Gnosticism. *“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and **not after Christ**”* (Col. 2:8)!

Christianity versus Gnosticism

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. The Unknown God—Jehovah | 1. The Unknown god |
| 2. Known only through angels, apostles, prophets | 2. Known through angels, teachers |
| 3. Source to know truth about God—Bible | 3. Source—Esoteric Writings |
| 4. God indwells Christian | 4. Spark of divinity indwells all men |
| 5. Advancement of self only in lifetime | 5. Advancement is indefinite |
| 6. Deliverance from old nature of flesh | 6. Deliverance from the flesh |
| 7. Salvation of flesh: Resurrection | 7. Salvation from flesh: Reincarnation |
| 8. Jesus = God manifest in the flesh | 8. All men = god manifest in the flesh |
| 9. Jesus = God-Man | 9. Jesus = adopted man or phantom |
| 10. Jesus = 1 Person with 2 Natures | 10. Jesus = 2 Persons, 2 Natures |
| 11. Death of Jesus saves man in the flesh | 11. Death of man saves god in the flesh |
| 12. Jesus is the Pleroma | 12. The gods are in the Pleroma |
| 13. Faith in the work of Jesus completes believer | 13. Faith in man’s works never completes |
| 14. Jesus is creator of and greater than angels | 14. Angels are highest in Pleroma |
| 15. Christianity gives assurance | 15. Gnosticism never gives assurance |

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



August Gagnon and Landon Strouse celebrated their birthdays together this week.



Ryan and Christy Strouse rejoiced the birth of their fifth child on September 12, 2024

Claire Elizabeth Strouse

She joins big brothers Jack (11), Landon (8), Preston (4), and Bryce (2).

BBC/BBTS 2024-2025 SCHEDULE

September 23-27
Bible Baptist Church
Nashua, NH
Minor Prophets I

October 20-23
Willow Grove Baptist Church
Waynesburg, PA
Timeless Truths Bible Conference
The Book of Nahum

October 27
Calvary Baptist Church
Mannington, WV
TBA

November 1
BBTS Fall Lecture Series
Galilean Baptist Church
Stafford Springs, CT
"Not after Christ"

2025

January 6-10, 2025
Ireland Module
Greek III & Psalms 1-41

Jan. 13-17, 2025
Fairhaven Baptist College
Psalms 42-72

February 10-14, 2025
Philippine Module
Quezon City
Psalms 45-72

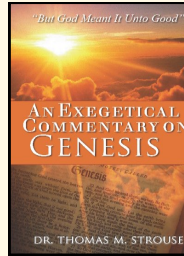
April 11, 2025
BBTS Spring Lecture Series
Galilean Baptist Church
Stafford Springs, CT
TBA

May 17-18, 2025
BBTS Banquet and Graduation
Bible Baptist Church
Cromwell, CT

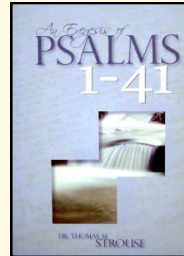
May 26-30, 2025
Ireland Module
Greek IV & Psalms 42-72

The Publication Page

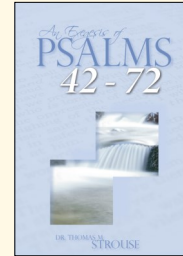
The books on this page may be purchased by contacting:
 Bible Baptist Church
 860-229-5387
 drtms_bbts@juno.com



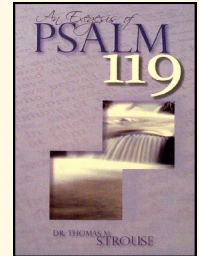
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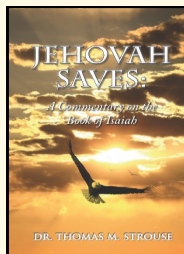
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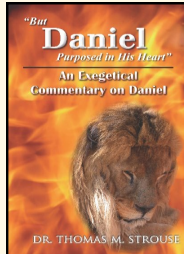
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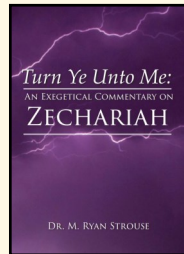
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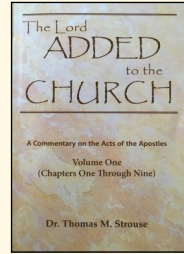
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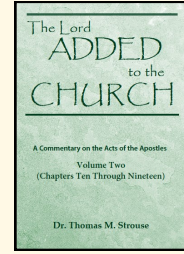
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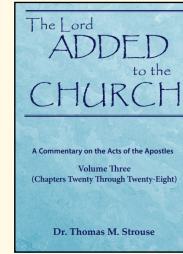
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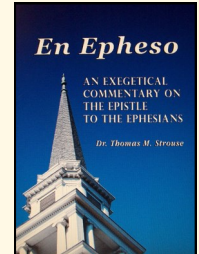
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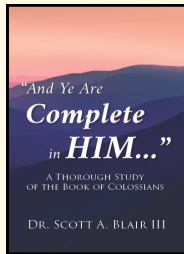
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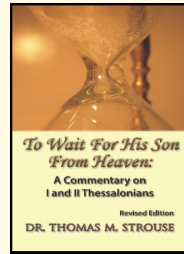
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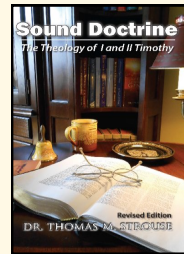
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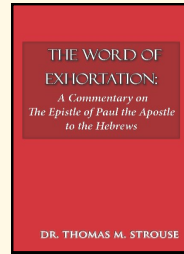
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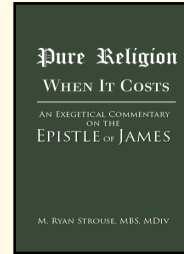
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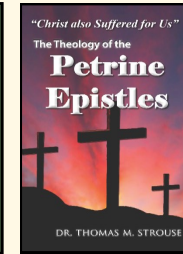
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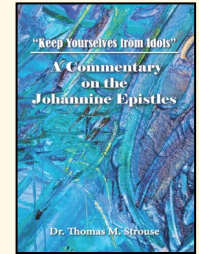
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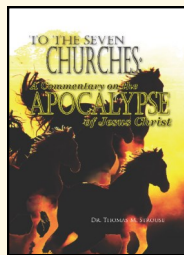
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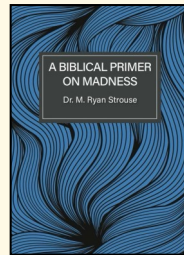
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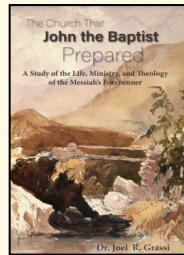
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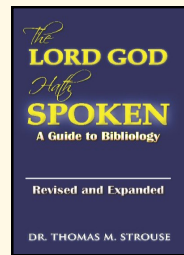
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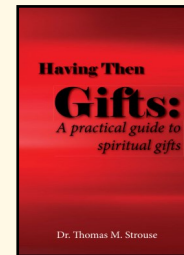
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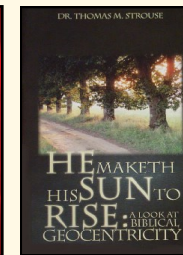
John the Baptist
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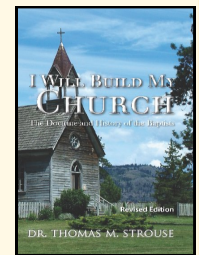
Bibliology
\$15.00



Spiritual Gifts
\$8.00



Geocentricity
\$10.00



Baptist Doctrine & History
\$15.00

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