

BBC UPDATE

BBTS Ireland Modules

Dr. Thomas Strouse

The Lord blessed with 22 seminarians taking one or both modules in Ireland the week of Jan. 2-6, 2012. The modules were Ecclesiology and the Book of Revelation, both of which were received with great enthusiasm and appreciation. The seminarians came from at least



Dr. Thomas Strouse

seven different countries or three different continents. These included seminarians from England, Ireland, Latvia, Portugal, Romania, South Africa, and the United States of America. The courses were held in the new facilities of River Valley Baptist Church hosted by Dr. Robert Zemeski, Missionary-Pastor. The daily schedule of 5 hours (8 AM-1 PM), lunch and rest, 5 hours (5 PM-10 PM), and finally sleep, was grueling but enjoyable as we fellowshiped in the Word of God. Several of the men will be candidates for the May 20, 2012 graduation in Cromwell, CT. Pray for them.

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Above: Several of the seminarians at the Ireland Modules on Ecclesiology and the Book of Revelation



Above: River Valley Baptist Church, Ireland



Right: Entrance to the church

Kwon Birthday Party

Bible Baptist Church celebrated baby Eun Hyeok Kwon's first birthday on Jan. 8, 2012 with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Ohyun Kwon. This celebration with the parents was a effort to show respect and appreciation for this Korean tradition. The Kwons travel from NY state every Sunday as faithful church members, having recently moved to the USA from Seoul, Korea.



Above: Mr. & Mrs. Kwon with their son, dressed in a traditional Korean outfit, celebrate his first birthday after the BBC. afternoon service.



BBC PHOTOS

BBC Photos

2

BBTS Schedule



The Kwon family was showered with gifts for Eun Hyeok's first birthday!



The BBC Family celebrates with the Kwons



Above: Eun Hyeok



Right: The Gagnon family signs the special during the Sunday morning service.



BBTS Winter Interim Module

January 23 - 27

New Testament Introduction

BBTS Spring Schedule

Monday

Greek Proficiency 10:00 AM - Noon
Hebrew VIII and II 6:00 - 9:00 PM

Wednesday/Friday

Book of Revelation 8:00 - 9:30 AM

Wednesday

Greek II 5:00 - 7:00 PM

Thursday

Book of Hebrews 6:00 - 9:00 PM



Mrs. Edith Davidson is surprised with a special birthday gift

False Expectations for Church Attendance

By Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

Introduction

In “protestantized” Christian America, most Christians, and especially Baptists, don’t have a biblical perspective of “church,” and therefore have unbiblical expectations for going to church. The New Testament church (ἐκκλησία) is the assembly of baptized believers called together in one place to worship the Lord Jesus Christ in spirit and in truth (Jn. 4:24). The assembly is the body of Christ (I Cor. 12:27) with the Lord Jesus as the Head of this organism (Col. 1:18) and the pastor as the overseer of this organization (Acts 20:28).

It appears that many Baptist church members have been “protestantized” because their pastors have gone to Protestant Bible colleges and seminaries, or to Baptist schools influenced by Protestants, and because they also have read almost exclusively from Protestant works. This “protestant baggage” passes onto church members who think that they go to church services to observe the “clergy” worship God. The so-called “laity” do not really participate in worship because they are not officially trained. Hence, the mindset develops that asks “what do I get out of church?” Christians search around for churches as consumers trying to get the best deal. Their expectations are almost solely “what do you have to offer me?” or “how do I benefit from going to church?” Some of the carnal reasons for church attendance include the desire to have a social outlet, or to improve job contacts, or for “spiritual” prestige (especially if the church is large and popular). When these and other carnal reasons are thwarted for some reason, Christians quite often either cease from church attendance or seek other options (such as cults) to fulfill their unbiblical expectations.

The Assembly and Assembly Attendance

The Bible, nevertheless, gives teaching concerning the nature of church and biblical reasons for attendance. As stated previously, the church is the assembly of baptized believers organized around the covenanted allegiance to carry out the Great Commission, practicing NT ordinances (baptism and

ARTICLE

the Lord’s Supper) and operating with biblical officers (pastor and deacons). The Lord Jesus Christ is both the Foundation (Eph. 2:20) and Head of His assemblies (Eph. 4:15) and meets in the midst of them (Mt. 18:20; Rev. 1:13) with His special ecclesiological presence and power (Mt. 28:20). The following are scriptural reasons for attendance in a NT church:

1. **It is a divine requirement which must not be forsaken:** *“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching”* (Heb. 10:25).
2. **The NT assembly is the divine institution for truth:** *“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”* (I Tim. 3:15).
3. **The local church is the exclusive institution for sanctification through the Word of God:** *“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth”* (Jn. 17:17).
4. **The primary reason for attendance is to learn doctrine;** fellowship, the Lord’s Supper and prayers are secondary, based on sound doctrine: *“And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers”* (Acts 2:42).
5. **The gathering of the assembly is the only practical means by which the believer can meet corporately with the Lord and worship Him in the ordinances:** *“When ye come together therefore into one place... For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord’s death till he come”* (I Cor. 11:20, 26), *“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls”* (Acts 2:41), and *“As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God”* (I Pet. 4:10).

ARTICLE

Continued from Page 3

6. **The local church is the only institution which has divinely-given men for her benefit:** *“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers”* (Eph. 4:11).
7. **The gathered assembly is the only place where saints can receive divinely authorized feeding and spiritual care** *“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood”* (Acts 20:28).
8. **The NT assembly is the only means by which one can exercise financial stewardship in this dispensation:** *“Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come”* (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).

Conclusion

The only reason for a Baptist church member to switch to another church in the same geographical area is because of unbiblical doctrine or practice in the former (*“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears”* [II Tim. 4:3]). There is no reason for a professed believer who is a member of a NT church to cease attendance! Reasons such as “personality conflicts” or “social/cultural idiosyncrasies” have been dealt with at the cross, and the Lord gives sufficient grace and love to deal with these so-called excuses: *“For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us”* (Eph. 2:14) and *“And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins”* (I Pet. 4:8). Baptists should expect to *“grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ”* (II Pet. 3:18) in their respective assembly and throw off false expectations for church attendance!

New Member

On Jan. 8, 2012, Miss Hee-Jeong Kim joined BBC based on her testimony of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and subsequent baptism as she transferred membership from Seoul First Baptist Church, Dr. David Eum, pastor.



BBC's New Member: Hee-Jeong Kim

Second Annual Ladies Fellowship

On March 10, 2012, BBC will host the Second Annual Ladies Fellowship from 10 AM to 1 PM. Mrs. Claudia Norwalt, wife of Pastor Paul Norwalt (Merrimack Baptist Temple, NH), will give her testimony and sing several special songs. The fellowship will include congregational singing, testimonies, and a brunch.



Mrs. Claudia Norwalt Please RSVP with number of ladies by 3-1-12 to drtms_bbts@juno.com.

BBTS MODULE CLASS



Above: Another view of River Valley Baptist Church in Maynooth, Ireland.

Right: The "L-shaped" auditorium inside River Valley Baptist Church is very similar to BBC's!

Below: BBTS Module class in Ireland



Mrs. Davidson leads a special Christmas Day project during Children's Sunday School class.



Mr. Kwon explains the Korean Birthday traditions.

DEVOTIONAL CORNER

Devotional Corner

6

Why is the Righteous...

Why is the Righteous Tried?

by Pastor Cas Reeves

The true Christian life is a most unique life among all the different kind of lives that people live. It is truly a daily adventure with



Pastor Cas Reeves

God and His Son, Jesus Christ along with the indwelling of His Holy Spirit. When a person receives Jesus Christ as his Savior, he becomes a member of God's heavenly family (John 1:12).

As a member of God's family, our heavenly Father takes a personal interest in our spiritual growth. That is why James the brother of Jesus says: *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing* (James 1:2-4). James was writing to Christians that were being persecuted for their faith. James was encouraging them to endure the trial knowing that it was maturing them or making them perfect or complete. Thus, trials are for the maturing and growing of the Christian's spiritual life.

Further, James reveals even more regarding the trial of Christians. He encourages the Christian by saying, *Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him* (James 1:12). What a joy it is to know that we shall endure our trials and receive a crown of life because the Lord has promised.

As Christians we must always remember what the Apostle Paul exhorted: *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able;*

but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it (1 Corinthians 10:13). Yes, we are able to endure our trials no matter how severe they may seem to us at the moment of endurance. How do we know this, because God has said so.

Using the illustration as the day of provocation, David warned us not to harden our hearts toward the Lord during our trials (Psalm 95:8). Rather, knowing that trials will come as sparks fly up in a fire (Job 5:7); therefore, let us mind the admonition of Solomon to *Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding* (Proverbs 3:5).

Why is the righteous tried? Because he is God's child and He is growing him for His honor and glory. Therefore, let us who believe, rejoice and glory in the Lord, as we trust Him through every trial of our life. -CAR

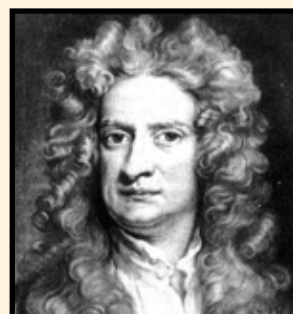
Quotes From the Past:

Sir Isaac Newton

1642-1727

17th century English Theologian
and Scientist

"Trials are medicines which our gracious and wise Physician prescribes because we need them; and he proportions the frequency and weight of them to what the case requires. Let us trust his skill and thank him for his prescription."



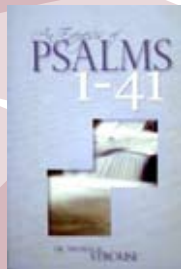
Sir Isaac Newton

THE BOOK CORNER

The Book Corner

These Books may be purchased through **Bible Baptist Church:**

40 Country Squire Rd.
Cromwell, CT 06416
860-229-5387



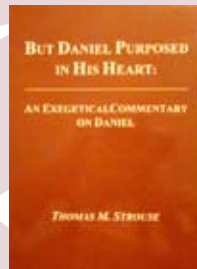
Psalms 1 - 41
\$20.00



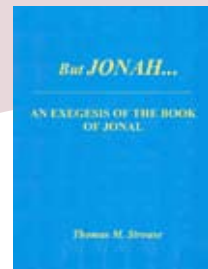
Psalm 119
\$20.00



Spiritual Gifts
\$8.00



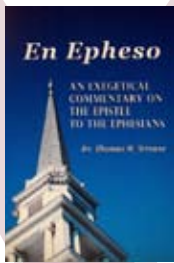
Daniel
\$20.00



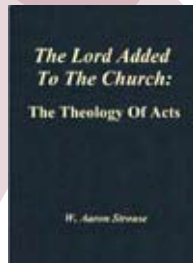
Jonah
\$10.00



Geocentricity
\$10.00



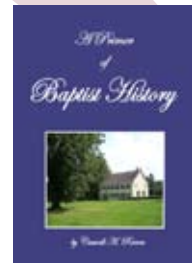
En Epheso
\$20.00



The Theology of Acts
\$20.00



I Will Build My Church
\$15.00



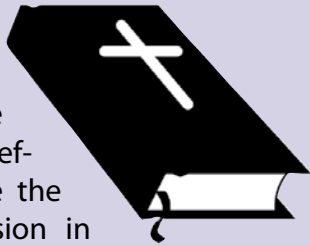
A Primer of Baptist History
\$20.00



The Lord God Hath Spoken
\$15.00

Manchester Bible Study

Continue to pray for the Manchester Bible Study as Mark Schabert teaches the *Gospel of John* to several families who live in the area. This is an effort to practice the Great Commission in Manchester, CT, evangelizing and edifying folks who come to the study. The Bible study is every Friday night at 7 PM. Please contact the pastor for directions.



Save the Date!!

2012 Spring Lecture Series

April 19, 2012

Crown Plaza, Cromwell, CT

Who Are the Baptists?

- I. Dr. Joel Grassi—*John the Baptist*
- II. Dr. Thomas Strouse—*Theology and Polity of Baptists*
- III. Pastor Cas Reeves—*History of Ancient Baptists*
- IV. Noel Meadowcroft—*History of 20th Century Baptists*

If you have any news for the next issue of the BBC Update, please send to the Editor, Cas Reeves, at either

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