



# BBC UPDATE

*“For Who Hath Despised  
the Day of Small Things?”*

**Dr. Thomas M. Strouse, Pastor**

The Lord asked this query through the prophet Zechariah, rebuking all who look externally to the “big” things in religion. Surely, the Solomon Temple was larger than the Zerubbabel-Herod Temple, and certain Jewish eyewitnesses to the former were dismayed and disheartened by the scaled down size of the Second Temple (cf. Zech. 4:10; Hag. 2:3-4). We, as members of *Bible Baptist Church*, nevertheless rejoice in the humble beginning that the Lord Jesus Christ has granted us, as we had our first public service in our modest new church building on Feb. 7, 2009. We are thankful for the twenty-seven charter members that the Lord has put in this body of Christ (cf. I Cor. 12:18, 27), and trust that we will maintain a humble spirit before our Saviour (cf. I Pet. 5:6). The Lord Himself alluded to His assembly as “*little flock*,” to which he gave the greatest privilege—“*the kingdom*” (Lk. 12:32). His “*little flock*” eventually “*turned the world upside down*” (Acts 17:6) with the pure and powerful truth of Scripture. Scripture teaches that “*man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart*” (I Sam. 16:7). Man’s tendency is to think that God’s work is accomplished through the “big external movement,” whether it is termed the “universal, visible body of Christ,” the “greater cause of Christ,” “new evangelicalism,” or even “fundamentalism.” Yet the Lord’s plan for this age is to accomplish the Great Commission exclusively through His baptizing agency, the local Baptist church.

Scripture makes a striking contrast concerning the companies that came to David’s aid at Hebron (I Chr. 12:23-40). The quality described of the tribes included 18,000 fighting men from Manasseh (v. 31) and 50,000 experts of war from Zebulun (v. 33). However, sandwiched in between these tribes were the little handful of 200 children of Issachar, whose quality of strength was that of being leaders and having “*understanding of the times*” (v. 32). Though small in number, they had the discernment of knowing the divine issues at hand, and followed David rather than Saul. We at Bible Baptist Church want to have Scriptural discernment concerning the issues of the day and stand for those truths. We believe it is honoring to the Lord that His assemblies, large or small, know the truths under attack by the enemy, and stand for those truths, whatever the cost (Gal. 1:10).



*First day of church at Bible Baptist Church in Cromwell, CT, February 7, 2010.*



*Dr. Strouse preaching during the first morning service.*



*Brother Jerry Akers brings the Sunday School message on the first day.*

“For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I get pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.”  
Galatians 1:10

# BBTS MODULE UPDATES

## Quezon City, Philippines Modules begin Monday, Feb. 15!

Please be in Prayer for Dr. Strouse as he travels to the Philippines to teach two modular courses: *Genesis* and *Ephesians*. These will be the first seminary classes in Quezon City with Pastor Jed Raquintan. If you recall, his church and home burned to the ground two years ago and now he is in his new building. We are thankful for his faithfulness during these trying times and will continue to pray for Cornerstone Baptist Church. Dr. Strouse will be preaching there in the AM service and then traveling to one of his mission churches in Pampanga (1.5 hours away). On the following Sunday, Feb. 21, Dr. Strouse will be ministering in another mission church in Pangasinan (4 hours away). We are anticipating at least 12 seminarians in the two courses, *Genesis* and *Ephesians*.

BBTS Modules

2

Philippines



### Quote from the Past:



**George  
Washington  
1732 - 1799**

From President Washington's first inaugural address: April 30, 1789:

*"The foundation of our national policy will be laid in the pure and immutable principles of private morality; ...the propitious smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right which Heaven itself has ordained."*



*The debut of the BBC Choir during the morning service!*



*Mrs. Dorothy Vassar, at the piano, didn't miss a beat!*

## BBTS SPRING SCHEDULE

### Monday

Hebrew VI 3:00 - 5:00 PM

### Tuesday

Hebrew IV 6:00 - 9:00 PM

### Wednesday PM

Genesis 5:00 - 7:00, 8:00 - 9:00 PM

### Wednesday/Friday

Genesis 8:00 - 9:30 AM

### Thursday

Greek II 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM



# BBTS STUDENTS & NEWS

From Pastor Dan Herr, Chester, MA

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your prayers concerning Patty's health. The past 4 weeks have been difficult, but God has blessed with help from our parents, church members, and friends. She had pneumonia and a sinus infection at first, and then was hospitalized for 4 days due to stroke-like symptoms. All tests confirmed that she did not suffer a stroke, but we were still left wondering why her left side became so weak. A week ago her strength started to return with physical therapy, and this past week we received good news from a neurologist who understood Patty's symptoms and what has been causing them. He assured us that with time she will continue to improve. He gave her exercises and helpful advice that will help strengthen her left side. To make a long story short, she is getting better, and she is very thankful for all those who have been lifting her up in prayer. We believe that God led us to the right doctor and we are confident that the Lord is accomplishing His purpose through this trial. Thank you again for your love and prayers!



Pastor Dan Herr and daughter Gwendolynn at last fall's seminary picnic.

In Christ,  
Dan Herr



Pastor Keith Main, Jeff Skorupski and Jerry Akers attend the first evening seminary class at BBTS.

## 2010 BBTS SPRING CALENDAR

Feb. 1	Second Semester Classes begin
Feb. 15-19	Modules: <i>Genesis</i> and <i>Ephesians</i> Quezon City, Philippines
Mar. 8-12	Module: <i>Tools for Biblical Languages</i> Endicott, NY
Mar. 15-19	Spring Break
April 12 - 16	Modules: <i>Romans</i> and <i>Tools for Biblical Languages</i> Iloilo, Philippines
April 22	Spring Lecture Series
May 16	Commencement

# DISCERNING

## THOUGHTS: "CHRISTIANS AND DRINKING" WOW!

By Pastor Cas Reeves ('06)

Discerning Thoughts

4

Pastor Reeves

*"Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and maketh him drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness!"*  
Habakkuk 2:15



Pastor Cas Reeves

Should a Christian drink alcoholic drinks, in particular, fermented wine? You would think that the above verse would be sufficient to say "NO" to this issue for any real Bible Believer. Yet, liberal scholarship is always trying to wrest the scriptures into saying that it is all right for a Christian to social drink now and then as long as he is moderate in his consumption of the alcohol.

Recently, however, I came across a book published by Bob Jones University Press: *The Christian and Drinking* by Dr. Randy Jaeggli, a professor of Old Testament at Bob Jones Seminary. In his book, he advocates and defends social and moderate consumption of wine. Although, Dr. Jaeggli believes the Bible teaches that excessive drinking and drunkenness is wrong, he advocates that alcoholic drink, and especially fermented wine, may be received with the blessing of God as long as it is consumed in moderation. Needless to say, I was appalled and taken aback with this open admission from Bob Jones University and Seminary, a respected school in many Baptist circles. After this open admission toward a position, which advocates the moderate drinking of fermented wine, I would think that good, Biblical Baptists would rethink and reevaluate their relationship with Bob Jones. This must be a clear embarrassment to supporters of Bob Jones; and if it is not, is their conscience seared with the hot iron of modern rationalistic scholarship?

Dr. Jaeggli, who represents Bob Jones University, states the following:

**Regarding Jesus making wine in Cana of Galilee, John 2:1-11:**

*I am aware that many interpreters insist that the wine Christ created was non-alcoholic. ...but I maintain that an objective reading of the narrative strongly supports the conclusion that Christ made fermented wine. ...the logical conclusion is that the wine Jesus made was alcoholic. (p.38)*

If you really believe that Jesus made an alcoholic wine and then distributed it to the wedding party, in clear violation of Habakkuk 2:15, then you have made Jesus a "**Divine Bartender**," and that is not to overlook the fact that He sinned against the clear will of God in Habakkuk 2:15. I don't think so! The whole tenor of Scripture presents Jesus as the sinless Lamb of God, a pure sacrifice offered for our sins and accepted for the remission of our sins by the Father and proven by the resurrection. This view of Jesus making fermented wine is ridiculous, unbiblical, ludicrous, dangerous, and sinful.

### Regarding the Lord's Table:

Jaeggli says:

*It is not surprising that the Lord's supper was observed with wine that had been mixed with water.*  
(p.46)



If you think the Bible teaches the use of wine at the Lord's Supper, then you are as deceived as Jaeggli, who gets this idea from Cyprian, who was a reprobate Patristic (catholic church father) of the third century. Jaeggli bases his thoughts on the authority of uninspired history. However, one should note what the inspired scripture says:

*And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.*  
(Matthew 29:27-29)

There are several things to note in this passage. First, there is no use of the word wine, but rather "fruit of the vine," which is a clear association with grape juice. The Bible clearly teaches that grape juice



# DISCERNING THOUGHTS (CONTINUED)

Continued from Page 4

is the element to be used in the Lord's Supper. Second, Jesus states he will drink it again, dispelling all notion of an alcoholic drink. Further, note, that in John 15:1, Jesus said, "I am the true vine." There is no perversion in Jesus Christ, who is the true vine, and thus, the type or symbolism put forth in the element of the cup cannot be perverted or fermented from its true state, the fruit of the vine, otherwise the symbolism is destroyed of pure, sinless, un-perverted blood.



## Regarding wine being a blessing:

Jaeggli states, "*Wine was a blessing only if consumed moderately*" (p.28). It is at this point that one should understand that Jaeggli has chosen to consider the Hebrew word for wine "yayin" and the Greek word for wine "oinos" as a word that has only one meaning, "*fermented wine*." This of course is not true. These words can mean *grape juice, grape syrup, and fermented wine*. Therefore it is obvious that only the context where the word "wine" is used can determine the correct definition. Wine as grape juice or syrup is the only usage that can be considered a blessing. Jaeggli refers to fermented wine as a blessing, while God refers to it as dangerous:

*Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.* (Proverbs 23:29-32)

Clearly from this Scriptural warning, fermented wine cannot be a blessing!

## Regarding wine in social enjoyment:

Disregarding the warnings of the scripture, Jaeggli chooses to reference Martin Luther and John Calvin, two Protestants, to add support to his condoning of moderate or social drinking. Quoting from Calvin, who stated,

*It is permissible to use wine not only for necessity, but also to make us merry. Christ's provision of an abundance of 'most excellent wine' at the wedding in Cana*

*was proof enough of its goodness. Only two conditions should govern wine-drinking: first that it be moderate; and second, that, 'in making merry,' they feel a livelier gratitude toward God.* p.48

Who cares what the Protestant Reformers think (not to mention, they killed Baptists), if it is contrary to sound doctrine you cannot use them as authoritative. Besides that is placing the authority of history above the authority of Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Yet, Jaeggli restates Calvin for his own support of moderately drinking fermented wine by saying:

*The Reformers did not view drinking alcohol beverages ... as simply a means of hydration. They insisted that drinking, along with good food, produced social enjoyment and an occasion for redeemed man to praise God for His good gifts.* p.48

As far as this preacher is concerned, there is no place for social drinking of any kind alcoholic beverage to the glory of God. Christian friend, beware of your associations, "*...evil communications corrupt good manners*" (1 Corinthians 15:33), and "*God is not mocked: whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap*" (Galatians 6:7). Christian friends, it is blasphemous to think that drinking alcoholic wine, even if it is in moderation, is all right to do. It is neither acceptable nor glorifying to the LORD according to the Scripture, but rather it is an abomination to God, and a stumbling block to fellow men. Christ is not a Divine Bartender! –CAR



# WALKING IN GOD'S WORD

## Psalm 119:1-3

By Pastor Scott Blair ('05)

Devotional

6

Book Corner



Pastor Scott Blair

The blessed ones are 1) the undefiled in the way, 2) who walk in the law of the Lord, 3) who keep His testimonies, 4) who seek Him with their whole heart, and 5) who do no iniquity. Walking in His ways keeps us from iniquity (cf. Psalm 119:11). God is interested in a whole-hearted seeking, not in a half-hearted curiosity nor in an intellectual exercise, but in a whole-hearted seeking.

Throughout this Psalm it becomes painfully clear that the Lord cannot be separated from His words. Our attitude and action toward God's testimonies is our attitude and action toward God Himself. How is your relationship to God's Word today? Are you walking in His ways? Are you living like a blessed one? The Lord desires for us to walk in His way. His way

is according to the Scripture, which is referred to in many different ways in this strophe. How many different words can you find that refer to Scripture?

A benefit of walking in His ways is that we will do no iniquity (cf. Psalm 119:11). We sin when we choose to walk in our own way or in the way of the world. However, when we walk in the Lord's ways, which are pure and perfect, we will do no iniquity. As the familiar song declares, Sin keeps us from God's word, but God's word keeps us from sin. Perhaps there is a particular sin that you are struggling with today. Why not acknowledge it before the Lord and yield to walk in the council and wisdom of His word?

**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.**

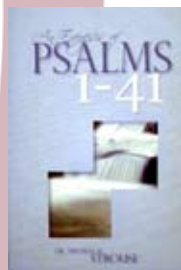
**THEY ALSO DO NO INIQUITY: THEY WALK IN HIS WAYS.**

PSALM 119:1 - 3

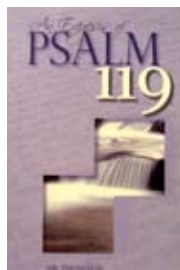
### THE BOOK CORNER

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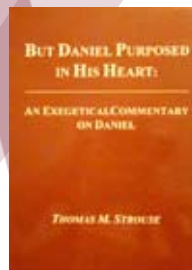
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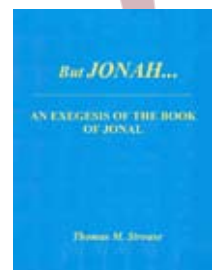
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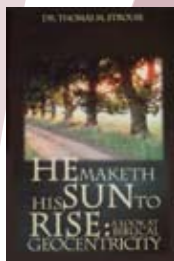
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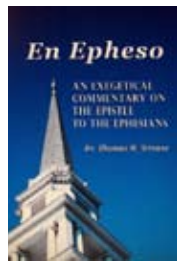
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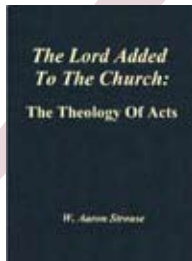
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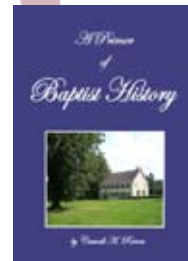
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# The “Well of the Caller”

Dr. Thomas M. Strouse, Pastor

February 3, 2010

Scripture: Judges 15:14-20

**Introduction:** The Lord used the judges as military leaders between the time of Joshua and the monarchy. Samson was a judge of notoriety, especially with regard to his loose morality. Nevertheless, God used him to resist the Philistines, and give peace to Israel for 20 years, no doubt in part because of his prayer life.

## I. The Account

- A. Uniqueness of words
  - 1. Lehi means “jawbone”
  - 2. “Ass” and “heap” have the same Hebrew consonants and are a pun
  - 3. The root of “called” (v. 18) and “*hakkore*” (literally “the calling one”) are the same.
- B. Emphasis on battles
  - 1. “a great slaughter” (v. 8)
  - 2. “great deliverance” (v. 18)
- C. Enormity of extremes
  - 1. 300 foxes
  - 2. 3000 men of Judah
  - 3. 1000 men slain with jawbone of ass

## II. The Application

- A. The Lord helped Samson in the Big Battle
  - 1. The Lord helped Samson in the Big Battle with the perennial enemies—the Philistines.
  - 2. He helps local churches in the battle for gospel truth and the planting of local churches (Mt. 28:19-20).
- B. The Lord helped Samson in the Little Basics
  - 1. Samson was thirsty and the Lord clave out a hollow place in the geographical location call “Lehi” (or “jaw”) and gave him water.
    - a. Samson called the place from whence the

AND HE WAS SORE  
ATHIRST, AND CALLED ON  
THE LORD...  
JUDGES 15:18A

# SERMON OUTLINE

water came as *En Hakkore* or “the well of the caller.”

- b. Samson testified that he was a habitual caller for the basics of life, using this active participle “*hakkore*.”
- 2. He helps His assemblies in “the little basics” as well, such as supplying needs for a pulpit, piano, chairs, bookcases, office equipment, etc.
  - a. Believers are to “be careful for nothing, but in everything by prayer” (Phil. 4:6).
  - b. NT church members may learn from Samson the lesson to pray for even the “little basics” while engaged in the “big battle.” The Lord Jesus Christ wants to help with regard to both.

**Conclusion:** Even though Samson was carnal, evincing many character weaknesses, he nevertheless testified that he was a man of habitual prayer from which Baptists may learn.



*First dinner on the grounds at BBC! Delicious!*

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

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