



# BBC UPDATE

## Spring Events at BBC/BBTS

Dr. Thomas Strouse



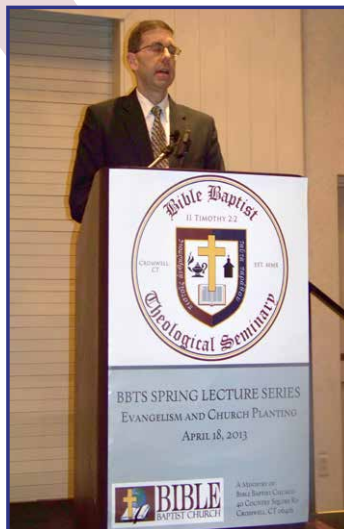
The Lord blessed with another wonderful day for the BBTS Spring Lecture Series on April 18, 2013 at the Cromwell Crowne Plaza. In attendance were some 55 individuals from ten different area churches and fourteen pastors to hear about biblical evangelism and church planting. The preachers were Dr. Thomas M. Strouse (Biblical Missions in Acts), Dr. Noel Meadowcroft (Biblical Evangelism), and Pastor Greg Breeden (Church Planting Principles and Challenges). Bible Baptist church provided a luncheon for the attendees and all enjoyed fellowship around the truth of Scripture. Syllabi and audio/video files are available on the BBC web site [www.bbc-cromwell.org](http://www.bbc-cromwell.org)



*Food and Fellowship at the Spring Lecture Series!*



*Some of the men that attended the 2013 Spring Lecture Series at the Crowne Plaza in Cromwell, CT.*



*Pastor Greg Breeden speaking on Church Planting Principles and Challenges.*



## 2013 BBTS Graduation Weekend Schedule

### Friday May 17, 2013

**11 AM – 1 PM** Dissertation Defense: Cas Reeves

**1 PM** Light Lunch at BBC

### Saturday May 18, 2013

**8 - 10 AM** Dissertation Defense: Enoch Kumar

**10 AM - 12 Noon** Dissertation Defense: Jeremy Mitchell

**Noon:** Light Lunch at BBC

**6 - 9 PM** Graduation Banquet: Crowne Plaza  
(No nursery facilities but children welcome)

### Sunday May 19, 2013

**10 - 11 AM** Sunday School:

Pastor David Ellsmore

**11 AM - 12 Noon** Preaching Service:

Dr. T. M. Strouse

**Noon:** Pizza and sandwiches at BBC

**1:30 PM** Pictures of Graduating Class

**2 - 4 PM Graduation Service:** Crowne Plaza  
(No nursery facilities but children welcome)

# SPRING LECTURE SERIES

Lecture Series

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Photos



The Fourth Annual BBTS Spring Lecture Series on "Evangelism and Church Planting" was held on Thursday, April 18 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cromwell, CT. Attendees from more than 14 churches attended the lectures.



*Above: Dr. Strouse opened the session speaking on "Church Planting in Acts"*

*Right: Pastor Greg Breeden closed the day speaking on "The Principles and Challenge of Church Planting," sharing his own church planting experiences.*



*Brother John Hagglund led the group in singing "Victory in Jesus" with Pastor Dan Herr playing the accompaniment on the piano.*



*The Bible Baptist Church choir sang "Almighty Unchangeable God" To lead off the second speaking session.*



*Above: Dr. Noel Meadowcroft spoke on "Biblical Evangelism."*



*Lunch was provided by Bible Baptist Church at our church home. The Food and fellowship were excellent!*



# Songs We Ought Not Sing

Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

## Introduction

A liberal theologian once said something like "I can sing orthodoxy, I just can't teach it." What believers sing ought to be in harmony with what they believe and teach. Paul said, *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord"* (Col. 3:16). The music and the words sung in NT churches ought to teach and admonish church members. Several songs appear in hymnals used by independent Baptist churches which should be scrutinized for orthodoxy and appropriateness for use in the Lord's assemblies of the truth. Independent Baptist believers ought not to sing some of these hymns and songs.

## Songs with Doctrinal Problems

For instance, the song *"Nearer, My God, to Thee"* was written by the Unitarian Sarah F. Adams (1805-1848) for Unitarians. It says nothing about the Lord Jesus Christ and certainly nothing about His deity, which truth Unitarians reject. There is a vague reference to "a cross that raiseth me" in the first stanza, but the God to whom Adams wanted proximity is not the God of the Bible. Another author, this time the ex-Anglican-turned-Roman Catholic Frederick W. Faber (1814-1863) wrote several popular hymns such as "I Worship Thee," "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy," and "Faith of our Fathers." The latter hymn is very popular (especially on Father's Day), yet when Faber wrote this he was at the height of his pilgrimage toward Marian theology, and he ultimately wrote "True Devotion to Mary." The persecuted and martyred fathers about whom he wrote were Roman Catholic heretics. Their faith was in a "christ" who needed Mary's help (cf. Heb. 1:3), and hence their "faith" was not Scriptural faith in the biblical Person. Another Roman Catholic writer was St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226), the nature mystic and staunch persecutor of

## BIBLE STUDY

the Anabaptists, who wrote "All Creatures of Our God and King." His words must be interpreted in light of his heretical views on God, creation, and biblical truth. Another Romish monk, Bernard of Clairvaux (1091-1153), wrote "Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee." Although the words and tune are very touching and tender, 'St. Bernard' did not know the Christ of the Bible, as he lived his life entrenched in Roman Catholicism. A final song for consideration is "Work For the Night is Coming" by Annie Coghill (1836-1907). The appropriateness of employing this song is severely questioned in light of the fact that it does not say one thing about the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. There is nothing in it to identify the song with Christianity. It seems to extol man's work with the refrain "When man's work is done...is over." This could be a song sung by atheists or communists with no change of words. It hardly gives praise to the Lord Jesus Christ.

## Conclusion

Much is said about the dangers of Contemporary Christian Music, drums, rock beat, etc. entering into independent Baptist churches. But there must be a warning about the composers' doctrine and words as well. For instance, no one should attempt to attribute the Beatles' "My Sweet Lord" to the Lord Jesus Christ, since it was their effort to mock Christianity and promote the Hindu deity Krishna. There is still a need for more scrutiny in examining Christian music to help independent Baptist churches honor the Saviour. There are some songs in Christian hymnals which we ought not sing.

## BBTS Online

BBTS is attempting to open opportunities for seminarians interested in studying the Bible and Theology and receiving seminary degrees. Plans are being made to offer BBTS Online this Fall Semester so that pastors and others can "go to seminary" remotely and potentially receive degrees. Please pray for this endeavor.



BBTS is in the planning stages of offering seminary classes online starting Fall 2013!

# DEVOTIONAL CORNER

## Contentment

Pastor Cas Reeves

*"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee"*

Hebrews 13:5



Pastor Cas Reeves

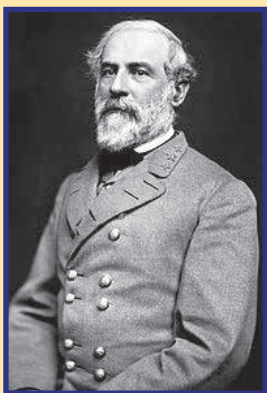
Today, the goal of many people is the accumulation of property, it is refreshing to remember what God tells his children about being content *"with such things as ye have."* This is hard for men to do. It goes against his very nature of want. However, God makes it clear that we are to live *"without covetousness."* This means *"without ill gain of property"* or *"love for gain of property."* Our life is not to major on, or to seek immorally or with wrong motive gain of property.

From our text we learn that God wants us to be living content. This contentment is rooted in Christ's ever presence with us, rather than in the temporal nature of things. This *"so that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper"* (Hebrews 13:6). Now that we are saved, our confidence is in Christ. Therefore, as Christians, we should find our contentment in our Savior Jesus Christ.

To young Timothy, Paul wrote, *"But godliness with contentment is great gain"* (1 Timothy 6:6). The emphasis is on godliness; having an attitude and action which speaks of personal holiness and piety toward God. When our godliness is accompanied with being content. God calls that a *"great gain,"* the Greek word means, an *"exceedingly big acquisition."*

If we have *"food and raiment,"* we are told to be content. (1 Timothy 6:8). The reason given: *"we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out"* (1 Timothy 6:7). Our God has promised to take care of our needs (Matthew 6:33). Putting the Lord first is godliness and brings satisfaction or contentment to our lives, which is *"great gain."* -CAR

### Quotes From the Past:



Robert E. Lee

Robert E. Lee, 1807-1870

Christian, Commandant of the United States Military Academy, Confederate General of the Army of Virginia, and President of Washington and Lee University.

*"In all my perplexities and distresses, the Bible has never failed to give me light and strength."*

*"Obedience to lawful authority is the foundation of manly character."*



The BBC Choir

### New Bible Study

BBC started a new Bible study in an assisted living facility in Middletown, CT. Four residents attended as they heard a Gospel message and participated in discussion following. Pray for this new endeavor.

## BBC Hosts Standardized Testing for Homeschoolers

BBC Hosted the Stanford Achievement Test, a nationally recognized test used by educators across the US. BBC opened this test to homeschooled students in the community. Fifteen students from both the BBC family and the community signed up to take the test, which was held Tuesday & Wednesday, April 23 & 24.



## BBC NEWS



*Although testing went for two days, the students enjoyed the experience!*

SAT Testing

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Farewell To Legowo

## Firman Legowo's Farewell

Pastor Firman Legowo, from Indonesia, spent the past month visiting BBC to sharpen his theology by sitting in on several BBTS classes, attending all BBC Services, and spending time with seminarians. This past Sunday, he shared his testimony, with the BBC Church family. Firman also presented letters of thanks from his home church to Pastor Strouse and Brother Jeff Skorupski for hosting him.



*Firman Legowo presented Dr. Strouse and Brother Skorupski letters of thanks from his home church.*



*Firman Legowo shares his testimony with during the Sunday afternoon service.*



*Firman sang a hymn both in English and Indonesian*

# THE BOOK CORNER

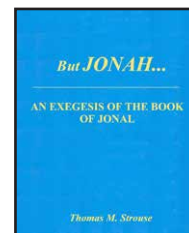
## The Book Corner

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

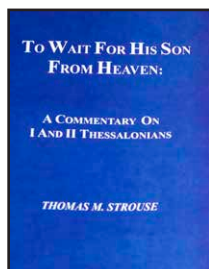
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Cromwell, CT 06416

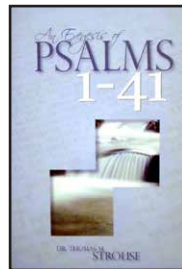
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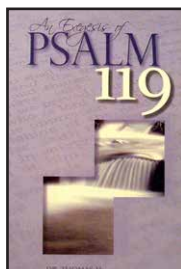
Jonah  
\$10.00



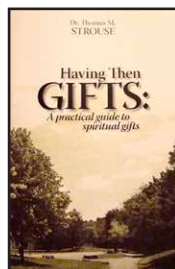
I & II Thessalonians  
\$10.00



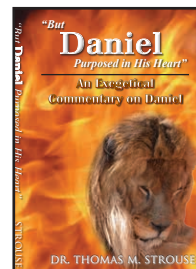
Psalms 1 - 41  
\$20.00



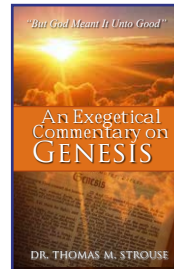
Psalm 119  
\$20.00



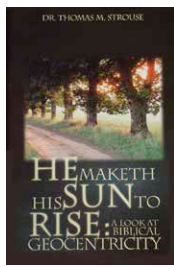
Spiritual Gifts  
\$8.00



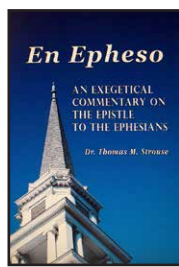
Daniel  
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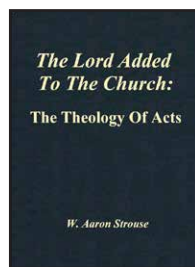
Genesis  
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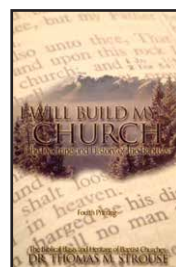
Geocentricity  
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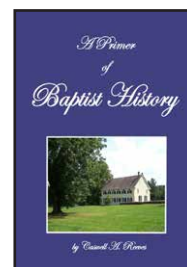
En Epheso  
\$20.00



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



A visitor came to the BBC Wednesday night service on horseback! This was a big hit with the children!



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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