



# BBC UPDATE

## Third Annual BBTS Commencement Approaching

Dr. Thomas Strouse



Dr. Thomas Strouse

There are six candidates for **BBTS graduation** on **May 20, 2012 at 2:00 PM**. Three of these candidates are from the Philippine and Ireland modules and the remainder are from the USA. The Sunday AM preacher will be Dr. Robert Zemeski, long term missionary to Ireland, and the commencement preacher will be Pastor Ken Brooks of Calvary Independent Baptist Church, West Redding, CT. Pray for these men.

The candidates, family, friends and BBC members will also celebrate the event at the Third Annual Spring Banquet to be held at BBC on Saturday evening.



Above: The BBTS Graduation class of 2011. This year, six new candidates will be receiving degrees.

BBC Update

Vol. 3 Num. 10

## BBC Mailing to Invite Cromwell Residents

BBC is utilizing the US Postal Service's new mailing program "Every Door Direct Mail" (EDDM) to invite the residents of Cromwell to Bible Baptist Church. This week nearly 5,000 Cromwell residents will receive a two-sided, glossy 12"x 9" postcard containing service times, ministries, and photos of BBC as well as the gospel message. Please pray this mailing will be well received by the residents of Cromwell and bear much fruit.



The shipment of the 5,000 postcard mailers before bundling and preparation for EDDM

**You're Invited to Bible Baptist Church**  
A Family Friendly Local Church

Where the TRUTH is preached

We at Bible Baptist Church are interested in your spiritual welfare. I can help you be aware of your spiritual condition by presenting what the God of the Bible says about your welfare. If you are not a Christian, that is, if you are not a born-again believer in Jesus Christ, then your present condition is that you are under the condemnation of God facing His eternal wrath in Hell. The good news or Gospel is that Christ died for your sins, was buried, and rose again. Once you become convicted of your sins, you must turn from them in repentance, and turn toward the Lord Jesus Christ in faith for biblical salvation. Notice the following Bible verses:

- "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23).
- "For the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23).
- "But he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (Jn. 3:18).
- "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Lk. 13:3).
- "And whosoever was not born again in the Spirit, shall not enter into the kingdom of God" (Rev. 20:15).
- "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31).
- "He that believeth on the Son of God, abideth in Him, and the Father that sent Him, and the Spirit which He gives, shall abide in him forever" (1 Jn. 5:11-13).
- "For God in His love has sent His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (Jn. 3:16).

40 Country Squire Rd.  
Cromwell, CT 06416  
(860) 613-2096  
www.bbc-cromwell.org

**You're Invited to Bible Baptist Church**

Join us this Summer for **Vacation Bible School!** Children ages 5 - 6th grade are invited to Vacation Bible School July 9 - 11 from 9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon. Your children will learn biblical truths, make crafts, play games, sing songs, and enjoy snacks.

Bible Baptist Church is also home to Bible Baptist Theological Seminary. Graduates will receive a thorough knowledge of Scripture, recognizing its biblical implementation in the local assembly, and be required to display biblical conviction in carrying out all the counsel of God. Degrees offered include Bachelor of Divinity, Master of Biblical Studies and Theology, and Doctorate of Ministry and Theology. Both semester and module options are available.

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth." - John 1:4

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Service Times

- Sunday School 10:00 AM
- Sunday Morning Service 11:00 AM
- Sunday Afternoon Service 1:30 PM
- Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:00 PM

FRIGHT STD  
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Local Postal Customer  
Cromwell, CT 06416

The front and back of the postcard mailers that were distributed to residents in Cromwell

# HOMESCHOOL SAFETY DAY

## BBC Hosts a Fire and Safety Day for Area Home Schoolers

BBC opened her building to area home school students for a "Home School Safety Day". During this session the children met with officers from the Cromwell Police Department and Fire Department and learned basic life safety skills. Topics covered included:

- Introduction to Cromwell Police Officers and Firemen
- The Police Department's role in the community
- Using 911 to call the Police or Fire department
- Allowing the children an up close look at police and fire vehicles



BBC News

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Home School Safety Day



*Each student viewed the police cars inside and out!*



*The demonstration of the lights and sirens were a bit loud for some!*



*Cromwell's Detective Penn has a conversation with his new partner!*



*A student learns what it feels like to be hand-cuffed!*

## Case Study: Baptist Polity Among the Seven Asian Churches

By Dr. Thomas Strouse

### V. Outline of Baptist Polity among the Seven Churches.

#### A. Baptist Polity concerning the Pastor.

1. His titles of great prestige (see above)
  - a. Star—bright, shining, important
  - b. Angel—messenger with heaven's revelation
2. His position of great power
  - a. The "ecclesiological right hand" of the Lord
  - b. The right hand signifies several biblical truths.
    - 1.) Direction (Dt. 33:2; Isa. 63:12)
    - 2.) Authority (Ex. 15:6; Isa. 41:10; Isa. 45:1; Mt. 22:44)
    - 3.) Protection (Job 40:14; Ps. 16:8; Ps. 18:35; Ps. 60:5)
    - 4.) Blessing (Gen. 48:13-18; Ps. 16:11)
  - c. No one else has this divinely-given authority in the assembly, not even finance committees, boards, or deacons (who are never mentioned in Rev. 2-3).
    - 1.) The Origin of Deacons (Acts 6:1-4)
    - 2.) The Role of Deacons
      - a.) They are not leaders (cf. Eph. 4:11)
      - b.) They are not assistant pastors (Acts 20:28)
      - c.) They are to assist with church widows (I Tim. 5:3-16)
    - 3.) The number of Deacons (the large church at Jerusalem of 20,000-40,000 members had SEVEN deacons!

#### 3. His responsibility of great performance ("thy" [17x]; "thou" [32x]; many verbs and imperative are second person singular [e.g. "thou canst not—οὐ δύνη])

- a. He must repent (Rev. 2:5, 16; 3:3, 19)
- b. He must oversee (I Pet. 5:1-3)
- c. He must exhort, teach, and rebuke (II Tim. 4:2)
- d. He must evangelize (II Tim. 4:5)

#### B. Baptist Polity Regarding the Responsibility of the People

1. Church members have the responsibility of reading, hearing and keeping all the words of Scripture (Rev. 1:4).

2. Church members have the responsibility of hearing what the Spirit says through the word of God in their respective churches and obeying (Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, and 22).

3. Church members have the responsibility to hold the truth (Rev. 2:25; 3:11).

4. Church members have the responsibility to overcome and claim promises to overcomers (Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26-28; 3:5, 12, and 21).

#### C. Baptist Polity Regarding Women in the Church

1. Women are not to be given a platform to express doctrine, practice, experience, or sentiment before the assembly (Rev. 2:20 ff.).

2. Women should not ask public questions in the assembly teaching time (I Tim. 2:11).

3. Women should not teach men the Bible or doctrine in the public assembly (I Tim. 2:12)

4. Women should not be in any public forum speaking/teaching with men present, which would apparently include giving testimony, praying, etc. (I Cor. 14:34-35).

5. A Woman needs to have biblical/theological questions answered by the biblical man in her life (father, or husband, or pastor).

#### D. Baptist Polity Regarding Lording over People

1. Two heresies arose which had the propensity to enslave church members.

- a. The "Nicolaitans" (τῶν Νικολαϊτῶν) movement. Literally, the compound noun means "people conquerors" (Rev. 2:6).

- b. The doctrine of "Balaam" (Βαλαάμ) belief system. This compound noun means "lord of the people" (Rev. 2:14).

2. The content of the heresies.

- a. "The deeds of the Nicolaitans" (τὰ ἔργα τῶν Νικολαϊτῶν) included similarity with Balaamism by promoting liberty to church members in idolatry and fornication (Rev. 2:14-15).

- b. "The doctrine of Balaam" (τὴν διδασχὴν Βαλαάμ) taught idolatry and immorality based on covetousness (Rev. 2:14-15; II Pet. 2:15; Jude 1:11).

# CASE STUDY

Continued from Page 3

3. The reaction to these heresies.
  - a. "Nicolaitanism"—repent and receive Christ's commendation or else be opposed by the Lord and lose candlestick status (Rev. 2:5-6; 16).
  - b. "Balaamism"—repent or else be opposed by the Lord and lose candlestick status (Rev. 2:16).
4. The Application of the heresies.
  - a. The watchword for Fundamentalism: "In Essentials, unity. In non-essentials, liberty. In all things, love" (Augustine [AD 354-430]).

- b. Protestant Fundamentalism and Protestant Baptist Fundamentalism controls Christians by dictating to them which doctrines are fundamental and which are non-essentials through its lists of "fundamentals of the faith" and "non-essentials." Fundamental Baptists supposedly are to agree to disagree on "non-essentials."

VI. **Conclusion**—Baptists must derive their doctrine and polity from the NT Scriptures, honoring the office of the star/angel/pastor, encouraging church membership to hear the Spirit through the Scripture, forbidding the public "teaching" ministries of women in the official services of the assembly, and resisting leadership's efforts "to lord over" the church membership.

## BBC Hosts a Fire and Safety Day for Area Home Schoolers - Continued



The children explored Cromwell's beautiful fire truck!



Over 20 children attended the event!



The Fire Chief talked the children through all the layers a firefighter must wear.

# “Christianity and Repentance”

By Dr. Thomas Strouse, Pastor



Quite often, when local or national catastrophes occur, people ask the common “where is God at a time like this” question. This often leads to questioning the existence or the omnipotence of God. However, this question or these words should not be on the biblical Christian’s lips, since the author and finisher of the Christian faith (cf. Heb. 12:2) gave His reply. The Lord Jesus Christ alluded to a local tragedy in which eighteen people were slain by the fall-

ing tower of Siloam (Lk. 13:4-5). Rather than questioning the existence, power, or even justice of God, the Saviour gave His shocking perspective. He asked a question and gave a dire warning. The Lord’s question was “*think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem?*” The question implied the answer that these men were not anymore sinful than any other men, including those in His audience. Tragedies don’t happen only to exceptionally sinful people, but to all men, who are all sinners. The warning was that when tragedy strikes unrepentant sinners will perish, just like the unrepentant eighteen sin-

## ***Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand***

ners who died in the tragedy. Since no one knows when fatal calamities will occur, it behooves everyone to have repented of sins and to have been saved in advance! Do people ever think along the lines of the Saviour? Do Christians ever give the warning about repentance from sins? Do the Christian churches in Cromwell, CT ever teach the necessity of repentance from sin and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for eternal life?

The Christian Saviour’s ongoing message was one of repentance. He preached the same message as His forerunner John preached, saying, “*Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand*” (Mt. 4:17; 3:2). He warned that repentance is required to keep mankind out of hell (cf. Lk. 16:30). The apostles Peter and Paul preached repentance to both religious observants and the heathen (cf. Acts 3:19 and 26:20). The resurrected Lord Jesus Christ demanded repentance from sins within the early assemblies (cf. Rev. 2:5, 16; 3:3).

## ARTICLE

Since repentance from sin is the Christian message to lost sinners, one must have an understanding of the nature and fruit of repentance. The act of repentance is literally changing one’s mind about sin. This change or turning is the volitional turn from wickedness prompted by the conviction of sin through the agency of the Scriptures with the working of the Spirit of God (cf. Lk. 18:13-14; I Thes. 1:9-10). The wicked Ninevites understood their responsibility before a holy God and expressed biblical repentance, saying, “*But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands. Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?*” (Jon. 3:8-9). The fruit of repentance is the understanding that nothing within man or by man can adequately deal with the offense against the eternal and holy God

## ***The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.***

of creation. John the Baptist declared to the Pharisees who were trusting in their religious heritage, saying, “*But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham*” (Mt. 3:7-9).

The Lord Jesus Christ is the Saviour from sin to all who repent of sin and receive Him by faith (cf. Jn. 1:12-13). He it is who asserted through the Apostle Peter, saying, “*The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance*” (II Pet. 3:9). Are we as professed Christians giving forth Christ’s urgent message of repentance?

# DEVOTIONAL CORNER

## Right Attitude

*"Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way" Psalm 119:128*

Having a right attitude about things is very important to our personal, and social, and especially spiritual welfare.



*Pastor Cas Reeves*

In order to have the right outlook we must have the proper standard to measure all things in our life. The standard must be something that is not contradictive but always the same. As Christians we accept the Holy Scripture to be that unchangeable and forever settled standard. *"For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven"* (Psalm 119:89).

The Psalmist knew the Scripture was able to give us a proper attitude toward knowing the Lord's direction in matters pertaining to our lives. *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path"* (Psalm 119:105). The Word stands as a great beacon guiding us towards God's excellence and righteousness. It also is like the light on a lantern that focuses on the present path of our feet, that we might not stumble.

Again we are told by the Psalmist, how to have a right attitude in trials. *"Before I was af-*

*flicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word"* (Psalm 119:67). We recognize that trials are in our best interest. They bring back into our life willful obedience to our God. *"It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes"* (Psalm 119:71). We are also told that we learn God's statutes through our trials. All of this, we learn, that we might be able, in right attitude, to *"count it all joy"* when we fall into different trails (James 1:2).

The Apostle Paul tells us, *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works"* (2 Timothy 3:16-17). A right attitude comes from right instruction. We learn the Scripture is God inspired and that it is profitable to us. It gives us principles to govern our life, conviction of conscience when we sin, the way to correct our mistakes and instruction in what is right. Yes, the Word of God is profitable to us, and is a standard for us, to *"thoroughly furnish"* [fully equip] us for having a right attitude.

### Quotes From the Past:



*Mary Ball  
Washington*

### Mary Ball Washington (1758-1831)

#### George Washington's Mother

Some time before George Washington was about to be sworn in as our Nation's first President, his mother is known to have said these words to him:

*"You will see me no more. My great age and the disease that is rapidly approaching my vitals warn me that I am not long for this world." She continued, "Go, George, fulfill thy high destiny which Heaven appears to assign to you; go, my son, and may Heaven's and your mother's blessings be with you always."*

# THE BOOK CORNER

## Manchester Bible Study

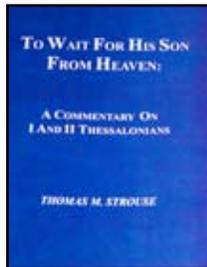
Continue to pray for the Manchester Bible Study as Mark Schabert teaches the *Gospel of John* to several families who live in the area. This is an effort to practice the Great Commission in Manchester, CT, evangelizing and edifying folks who come to the study. The Bible study is every Friday night at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



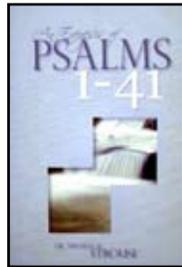
Christy accompanied Ryan during a offertory musical special

## The Book Corner

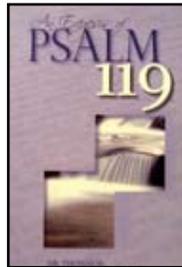
These Books may be purchased through **Bible Baptist Church:**  
 40 Country Squire Rd.  
 Cromwell, CT 06416  
 860-229-5387



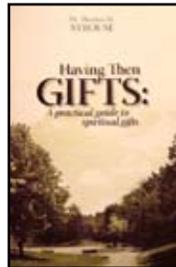
I & II Thessalonians  
\$10.00



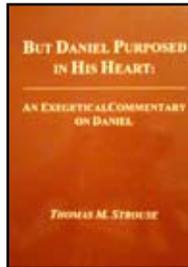
Psalms 1 - 41  
\$20.00



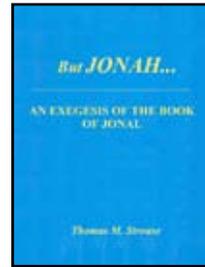
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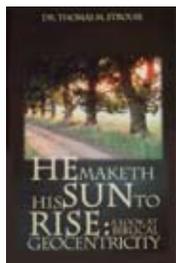
Spiritual Gifts  
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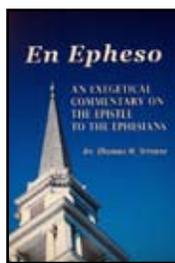
Daniel  
\$20.00



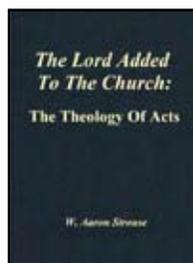
Jonah  
\$10.00



Geocentricity  
\$10.00



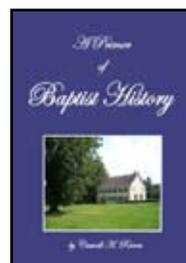
En Epheso  
\$20.00



The Theology of Acts  
\$20.00



I Will Build My Church  
\$15.00



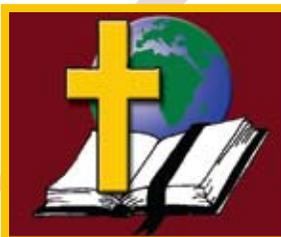
A Primer of Baptist History  
\$20.00



The Lord God Hath Spoken  
\$15.00

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

bbts@stny.rr.com  
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## Bible Baptist Theological Seminary

A ministry of Bible Baptist Church

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