

BBC UPDATE

HBTS Graduation

Dr. Thomas Strouse



Dr. Thomas Strouse

Six candidates graduated from Heritage Baptist Theological Seminary on Sunday, June 3, 2012 in Endicott, NY. Adjunct Professor Jeff Skorupski and myself had the privilege to be involved in the service which included awarding Bible Baptist Theological Seminary Adjunct Professor Noel Meadowcroft with the Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree for many years of service and teaching in the Lord's assemblies. Pastor Cas Reeves is a BBTS alumnus (MBS and MDiv) and Adjunct Professor of BBTS, as well as pastor of Heritage Baptist Church and president of Heritage Baptist Theological Seminary. Heritage Baptist Church and Bible Baptist Church are sister institutions committed to training men in the Word of God (II Tim. 2:2).



Top Above: The graduates and staff of HBTS class of 2012. Above Left: Noel Meadowcroft is awarded the Honorary Doctor of Divinity. Above Right: Pastor Cas Reeves awards the degrees

Upcoming Events at BBC!

Men's Prayer Group – The men of BBC are invited to join the pastor in a time prayer and fasting for our country. The men will meet once a month at 7:00 AM for a time of prayer and scripture reading followed by breakfast at Friendly's. The first meeting is **Saturday, June 16, 7:00 AM** at BBC.

Homeschool Summer Kick-off Party – The homeschoolers of BBC are invited for pizza and pool party at the home of the Gagnon's on **Tuesday, June 20 at 11:00 AM**.

BBC Fishing and Fellowship – All are invited for a time of fishing and/or fellowship at the Reservoir off Barnes Road, Wallingford on **June 24, 5:00 PM**.

Fourth of July Picnic and Outdoor Service – All are invited for a picnic at BBC on the **4th of July at 3:00**

PM – 5:00. The Wednesday night evening service will be held at 5:00 PM, outside under the tents. Seating and sound will be available inside for those needing air-conditioned comfort!! In the event of rain, the picnic and service will be held inside at BBC.

Vacation Bible School – The Third Annual Vacation Bible School "The Worthy Walk" will be held **July 9 – 11, from 9:00 AM – noon**, with the Grand Finale held during the evening service on July 11 at 7:00 PM. All children aged 5 – 6th grade are invited to attend!

BBTS Fall Schedule – The Tentative Fall schedule for Bible Baptist Theological Seminary is available. See page 2.

HBTS GRADUATION

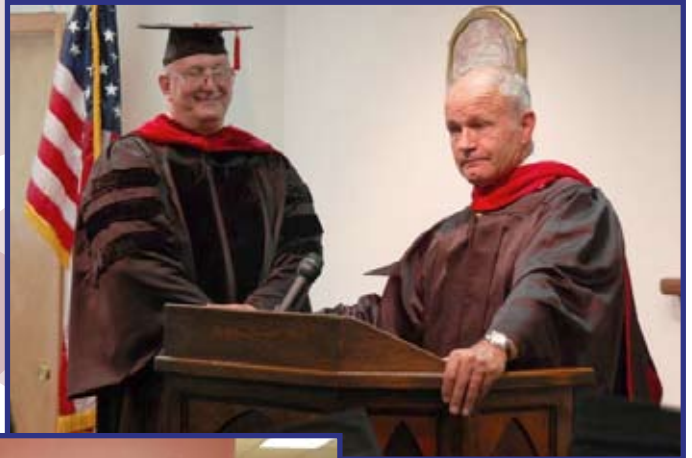
HBTS Graduation

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BBTS Schedule



Another student receives his degree!



Dr. Meadowcroft addresses the congregation.



The Six HBTS Graduates



Pastor and Mrs. Strouse



Bible Baptist Theological Seminary Fall Schedule

Monday

Greek Proficiency 10AM - Noon

Advanced Hebrew VIII 6 - 7 PM

Hebrew III 7 - 9 PM

Wednesday/Thursday

Romans 8- 10:30 AM

Greek III 5 - 7 PM

Thursday

Cults 6 - 9 PM

Friday

Greek I 10AM - Noon



Was Luke a Jew?

ARTICLE

By Dr. Thomas Strouse, Pastor
Bible Baptist Church

Introduction

Recently there have a spate of articles written, especially on the internet, which have alleged that Luke was a Jew based on the supposed demands of Rom. 3:1-2. The argument states that since the Jews had the spiritual privilege to be the custodians of the oracles of God, then only Jews could possibly be the medium through which all Scripture came, both Old Testament (OT) and New Testament (NT). This view misunderstands Rom. 3:1-2, denies and ignores other Scriptures, and fails to understand the divine authority of the ἐκκλησία.

Romans 3:1-2

Having declared the sinfulness of both Gentiles and Jews (Rom. 1-2), the Apostle Paul asked rhetorical questions and answered, *“What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God”* (Rom. 3:1-2). Clearly, his statement of encouragement was that the Jews were the divinely appointed custodians of the OT Scriptures (i.e., the *Tanak*). The verb that the Apostle employed was *“were committed”* (ἐπιστεύθησαν), the *aorist* passive of πιστεύω. Of the 248 times this verb is translated in the KJV, it is rendered *“to believe”* 239 times and *“to commit”* 8 times. It is accurately rendered in Rom. 3:2 denoting the stewardship of the Jews as the custodians or guardians of the *Tanak*. Certainly the Israelites took their responsibility seriously by receiving divine revelation either directly (i.e., Ex. 20:1-26) or indirectly (i.e., Num. 24:2-25), and inscripturating the words (i.e., Jer. 36:4 ff.) while preserving them by the priests (i.e., Lev. 10:11), in homes (i.e., Dt. 6:4-9), and through public worship (i.e., Ezra 8:1-14). Further, the Apostle utilized the expression *“the oracles of God”* (τὰ λόγια τοῦ Θεοῦ) to refer to the Scriptures. In three of the four times the word *“oracles”* occurs in the NT, it refers to the *Tanak* (Acts 7:38; Rom. 3:2; and Heb. 5:12). Peter enjoined his church-member audience to *“speak as the oracles of God”* (I Pet. 4:11). However, to extend the *Tanak* guardianship privilege of the Jews to include NT Scriptures is overstatement and unbiblical. The Lord had already hinted to the religious leaders of His day that the Jews’ divine stewardship was coming to an end. In fact, Christ averred, saying, *“Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof”* (Mt. 21:43). The other *“nation”* (ἔθνος) would be the Gentiles, and the new institution would be the ἐκκλησία (see later discussion).

Colossians 4:10-14

As the Apostle Paul sent his greetings to the Colossian church he grouped his colleagues around the expression *“who are of the circumcision”* (οἱ ὄντες ἐκ περιτομῆς). The plural pronoun *“who”* (οἱ) and plural participle *“are”* (ὄντες) refer to the three Jews including Aristarchus, Marcus, and Jesus-Justus. Since Luke is sandwiched in between two known Gentiles, Epaphras of Colosse and Demas of Thessalonica (vv. 12-14), and is not identified with the Jewish brethren *“who are of the circumcision”* sending their greetings, the burden falls upon those wanting to teach that Luke was a Jew to explain a credible defense in light of the inspired Scripture order and organization of this passage.

Acts 21:27-29

Sometimes it is argued that if Luke had been a Gentile, he along with *“Trophimus an Ephesian,”* would have been listed as accomplices to Paul in his Temple *“violation.”* Paul received Jewish condemnation because he supposedly took Trophimus beyond the court of the Gentiles. Although Luke was present in the city, there is no scriptural evidence that he violated the Temple prohibitions for Gentiles. The Scripture mentions Trophimus because he was the supposed violator, not Luke. This so-called argument is based on the loud, clamorous argument of *“silence.”* It has no biblical merit.

Other Scripture

The writer of the Gospel of Luke referred to the Jewish places of worship as *“their synagogues”* (Lk. 4:15). The Jews identified the synagogues as belonging to them, and not to Gentiles (cf. the contrast between the centurion and inhabitants of Capernaum [Lk. 7:1-5]). The writer of the Lukan Gospel did not identify nationally with the Jewish synagogues because he was a Gentile. In addition, the writer of Acts referred to the language of the dwellers of Jerusalem as *“their proper tongue”* (Acts 1:19). Luke’s native language was not Hebrew/Aramaic, but Greek since he was a Gentile as he indicated by the aforementioned expression.

NT Ecclesiology

Those who are challenged by the false notion that there is biblical warrant for some sort of universal, invisible, church, or mystical body of Christ entity in the

Continued on Page 4

CASE STUDY

Continued from Page 3

Bible will lack scriptural discernment concerning NT ecclesiology, or the doctrine of the nature and practice of church. Moreover, they will struggle with the full understanding of the Great Commission given to the ἐκκλησία. Our Lord commissioned His assembly, stating, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen" (Mt. 28:19-20). The Lord Jesus Christ authorized His baptizing institution as the exclusive agency to evangelize sinners, baptize converted sinners, and teach these immersed Christians "to observe" (τηρεῖν) His words until He returns. The KJV renders the τηρέω verb as "to keep" (57x), "to reserve" (8x), "to observe" (4x), "to watch" (2x), and "to preserve" (2x). The NT assembly became the *new* keeper or guardian of Scrip-

ture, since it is "the pillar and ground of the truth" (I Tim. 3:15), and for which the ἐκκλησία at Philadelphia was commended ("hast kept my word" [Rev. 3:8; cf. 3:10]). Since the NT ἐκκλησία housed Jews, Samaritans, and Gentiles in the first century and forward, it becomes a moot point whether Luke was a Jew and therefore "qualified" under Rom. 3:2 as a writer of Scripture. As a church member, Luke was qualified to write Scripture. The Scripture gives compelling evidence that he was a Gentile, and no evidence that he was a Jew.

Conclusion

Was Luke a Jew? No, Luke was a Gentile and he wrote the two NT books (Luke and Acts) which have more words in them than Paul has in his fourteen letters. The argument that Rom. 3:1-2 demands that all writers of Scripture must be Jewish misunderstands the context of Rom. 3:1-2, denies and ignores other Scriptures, and fails to understand the nature and commission of the NT ἐκκλησία.

Vacation Bible School

Bible Baptist Church

*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path.*

Psalms 119:105

The Worthy Walk

It doesn't matter if you walk a mile,
or drive a fancy sports car in style.
We'll teach you the right path to take,
For where you spend eternity is at stake!
Come to VBS at BBC,
it will definitely be worth while.

July 9th - 11th
9:00 AM - Noon
40 Country Squire Rd.
Cromwell, CT



Occasions for OT Prayers #3

Dr. Thomas Strouse, Pastor

Various situations in the lives of the OT saints occasioned them to pray. Here are some of them:

1. **Prayers that God does not hear:** *"And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood" (Isa. 1:15).*
2. **Prayer of complete surrender:** *"Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me" (Isa. 6:8).*
3. **Prayer of Praise:** *"And in that day thou shalt say, O LORD, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me" (Isa. 12:1).*
4. **Prayer recognizing peace:** *"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee" (Isa. 26:3).*
5. **Prayer of opportunity:** *"Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near" (Isa. 55:6).*
6. **Prayer to the open ear:** *"Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear" (Isa. 59:1).*
7. **Prayer of inability:** *"Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child" (Jer. 1:6).*
8. **Prayer of concern:** *"Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! surely thou hast greatly deceived this people and Jerusalem, saying, Ye shall have peace; whereas the sword reacheth unto the soul" (Jer. 4:10).*
9. **Prayer that is forbidden:** *"Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to me: for I will not hear thee" (Jer. 7:16)*
10. **Prayer for confusion:** *"Let them be confounded that persecute me, but let not me be confounded: let them be dismayed, but let not me be dismayed: bring upon them the day of evil, and destroy them with double destruction" (Jer. 17:18).*

Heritage Baptist Theological Seminary Graduation



HBTS Commencement ceremony



Pastor David Smith of Community Baptist Church, PA, preached the commencement sermon.



Insight into Inspiration

One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians are always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies. Titus 1:12:

In verse twelve, Paul continues revealing his thoughts on the deceivers. In defense of his accusation that Crete was inundated with deceivers who were basically liars, brutish, slowbellies; Paul draws upon his knowledge of ancient literature and cites one of the ancient Cretian prophets or poets.



Pastor Cas Reeves The apostle Paul quotes Epimenides of Knossos who lived around 600 B.C. He was born in Crete and became one its famous poets, prophets and religious leaders on the island. In the Hymn of Zeus, Epimenides states that the Cretians are liars. This substantiated what Paul was saying with regard to the deceivers that were in and among the churches.

"They fashioned a tomb for thee, O holy
and high one
The Cretans, always liars, evil beasts,
idle bellies!
But thou art not dead; thou livest and
abidest forever
For in thee we live and move and have
our being."

Epimenides - stanza from the Hymn of Zeus

Paul also quotes Epimenides in Acts 17:28 when he spoke on Mars hill.

One is able to conclude that the character of the people of Crete in Titus's day was certainly base. It seems that for centuries they had a common behavior and testimony of being liars, lazy, and gluttons. Certainly they gave way to the baser nature of man. Thus, there was a great need for the gospel in the lives of these people. Since the gospel is given to the church and it is the church's responsibility to share it; then it behooves the cause of Christ that the churches on Crete be set in order.

A note regarding bibliology, Epimenides in his poetry spoke truth. He was not inspired to speak or write what he did. However, the apostle Paul under the power of Holy Spirit inspiration quotes the truth of Epimenides' poetry; and, it is at this point, that it becomes part of the inspired scripture. This account gives the Bible student interesting insight into the understanding of the work of inspiration of scripture by the Holy Spirit and the involvement of men as He leads them to write. Clearly, one notes how God used the writers, their knowledge and personality as He inspired or breathed out the scripture.

-CAR

Quotes From the Past:

James Monroe, Nov. 16, 1818

5th President of the USA



James Monroe

"The hope of a Christian is inseparable from his faith. Whoever believes in the divine inspiration of the Holy Scriptures must hope that the religion of Jesus shall prevail throughout the earth. Never since the foundation of the world have the prospects of mankind been more encouraging to that hope than they appear to be at the present time. And may the associated distribution of the Bible proceed and prosper till the Lord shall have made 'bare His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God' (Isaiah 52:10)."

THE BOOK CORNER

Manchester Bible Study

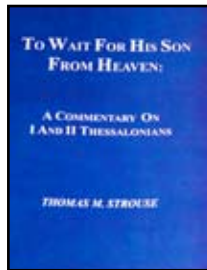
Continue to pray for the Manchester Bible Study as Mark Schabert teaches the *Gospel of John* to several families who live in the area. This is an effort to practice the Great Commission in Manchester, CT, evangelizing and edifying folks who come to the study. The Bible study is every Friday night at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



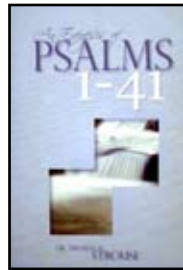
Baby Kwon enjoys another BBC Choir practice!!

The Book Corner

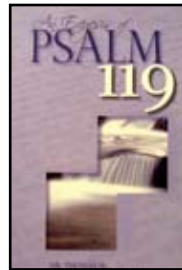
These Books may be purchased through **Bible Baptist Church:**
40 Country Squire Rd.
Cromwell, CT 06416
860-229-5387



I & II Thessalonians
\$10.00



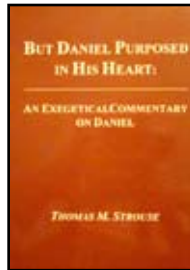
Psalms 1 - 41
\$20.00



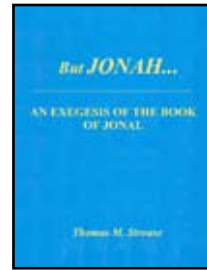
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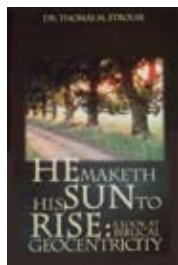
Spiritual Gifts
\$8.00



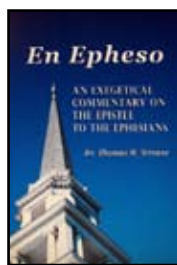
Daniel
\$20.00



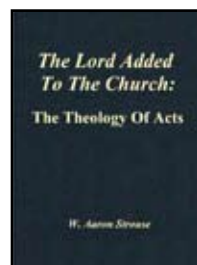
Jonah
\$10.00



Geocentricity
\$10.00



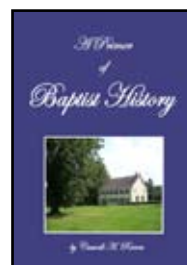
En Epheso
\$20.00



The Theology of Acts
\$20.00



I Will Build My Church
\$15.00



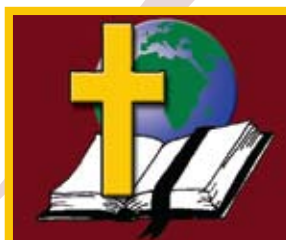
A Primer of Baptist History
\$20.00



The Lord God Hath Spoken
\$15.00

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
hbc5923@stny.rr.com



Bible Baptist Theological Seminary

A ministry of Bible Baptist Church

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