



BBC UPDATE

BBC Baptismal Service

Dr. Thomas Strouse



Dr. Thomas Strouse The Lord blessed with an excellent day to have an outside baptismal service at Mrs. Lilia Harding's house and pool. On June 30, 2013, the assembly members left the BBC building after the morning service, travelled to the pool side, and ate a picnic dinner before the afternoon service which included the church ordinance of baptism. BBC observed the ordinance as the Lord set two young people in the BBC assembly through believer's immersion (cf. I Cor. 12:18; Acts 2:47). The two were Peter Schabert and Aaliyah Tarrats, who upon their respective testimonies of having repented of sins and trusting in the precious Saviour, received scriptural baptism in water. The pastor and parents were satisfied with the children's testimony of salvation and apparent change in behavior evidencing the conviction of sin and repentance thereof. The baptismal message was built upon Acts 8:26-40:

I. A Divine Appointment (vv. 26-30)

II. A Divine Account (vv. 31-33)

III. A Divine Agent (vv. 34-35).

IV. A Divine Answer (vv. 36-37).

V. A Divine Activity (vv. 38-40).



Miss Aaliyah Tarrats (above) and Mr. Peter Schabert (left) were baptized during the June 30 afternoon service.



Pennsylvania BBTS Module

Community Baptist Church of Quakertown, PA, and Dr. Dave Smith pastor, hosted the seventh annual BBTS module with a total 16 having registered. During the week of June 17-21, 2013, Dr. Thomas M. Strouse taught the Book of Job every evening from 5-10 PM, dealing with the text and theology of Job. Pray for the attendees and especially the seminarians.



BBTS Module at Community Baptist Church of Quakertown
Job
June 17-21, 2013

The afternoon service was held outdoors at Mrs. Lilia Harding's home.



BAPTISMAL SERVICE

*Delicious picnic and excellent fellowship
before the service!*

Baptismal Service

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Photos



Apostasy in the Last Days

Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

BIBLE STUDY

Introduction

Occasionally a preacher will say something like “we must be in the last days because of the increase in apostasy all around,” citing II Tim. 3:1 ff. as his proof text. Sometimes one of the recorded sins will be singled out and expounded as a “sign” of the Rapture.¹ For instance, the obvious observation about the narcissistic American society which evidences the egotistic sin of “lovers of their own selves,” justifies saying, “surely this must be a sign of the Second Advent.” Many preachers and teachers, even those claiming to hold to the imminent coming of Christ, posit the fallacious notion that “the last days” started in the nineteenth century and extend into the twenty-first century. There are several biblical reasons for rejecting the position that “the last days” refer to a period starting sometime *after* the Apostolic Age, and therefore are signs of the Rapture.



Dr. Thomas Strouse

First, prophecy must be pertinent to the original audience. Paul wrote to Timothy so that he would know what to expect later in his lifetime during the Apostolic Age. Second, the Scripture is very clear when the last times (days) began, as the Apostle John revealed, saying, “*Little children, it is **the last time**: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time*” (I Jn. 2:18). The last days relate to the fulfillment of Jacob’s prophecy which included the coming of Shiloh (Gen. 49:1, 10).² The last times began when the Messiah/King came with His proposed kingdom (Mt. 3:2; 4:17). Peter recognized that the last days had begun with the pouring out of the Holy Spirit, saying, “*But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in **the last days**, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams*” (Acts 2:16-17). Paul revealed that the last days began with the Lord Jesus Christ’s words which were ultimately

inscripturated in the Apostolic Age, saying, “*Hath in **these last days** spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds*” (Heb. 1:2). James addressed his audience as sinning in the last days, saying, “*Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the **last days***” (Jam. 5:3).

Third, the opinion that the last days began sometime after the Apostolic Age is based on the “Church-Age” heresy that the Ἀποκάλυψις teaches that there will be “Seven Church Ages” spread out over two thousand years of Christendom. This position is Protestant in origin and was popularized by the Scofield Reference Bible. The Lord Jesus Christ revealed to the seven churches in Asia Minor the coming events of prophecy (cf. Rev. 1:4, 20). Although these churches are representative of NT assemblies anywhere and at anytime, they do not represent the so-called “Church Ages” of the Universal Church, including Roman Catholicism and Protestantism. Although many Baptist preachers speak of living in the “Laodicean Church Age,” they should know that this is theological bunk. Organizing the “Church Ages” around arbitrary Catholic and Protestant historical events is theologically disastrous, ecclesiologically deceptive, and extremely subjective. The Apostle Paul did *not* teach Timothy that sometime in the far future when the Laodicean Church Age would finally arrive, the Last Days would begin and End Time Apostasy would signal the signs of the Rapture. Those Baptists who teach this ecclesiological and eschatological heresy are guilty of promoting Protestant theology and Romish/Protestant “church history” in Baptist garb, and undermine the very doctrine of the imminent return of Christ.³

Proponents of this heresy are Protestant preachers, such as Theodore Epp, who states concerning Rev. 2-3, saying, “If I were to give a title

Continued on Page 4

¹Paul did not look for signs but for the Saviour, saying, “*For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ*” (Phil. 3:20).

²One should note also the other two OT references to “the last days” relate to the coming of Christ (Isa. 2:2; Mic. 4:1), and from the OT prophetic perspective, there would be “one” coming.

³When challenged by this author about the imminency doctrine, one Baptist stated that the “Church Ages” could be very short and all occur within the Apostolic Age. But then the retort is “why call them ‘ages.’”

BIBLE STUDY

Continued from Page 3

to this section I would call it 'the Great Apostasy of the Last Days Traced from the Beginning of the Church's History'...it [apostasy] began early in church history and will be consummated in the world after the true Church is gone. The decline in faith can be traced through these seven churches with the climax in the great apostate church of Revelation 17."⁴ Harry Ironsides affirmed concerning the Philadelphia "Church Age," saying, "Following the Reformation came a time when a cold, lifeless formalism seemed to settle over all Protestant Christendom...but in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries a great wave of blessing came over all of those lands where the Reformation had gone...Marvelous awakenings [Protestant] occurred..."⁵ J. A. Seiss averred, saying, "Can any man scrutinize narrowly the professed Church of our day, and say that we have not reached the Laodicean age?"⁶ Biblical Baptists do not interpret "church" in any sense to include Catholicism or Protestantism. Nor do Biblical Baptists recognize that the history of Catholicism or Protestantism is the legitimate Christian history of the Lord's churches.

Interpretation

The Apostle Paul did indeed warn Timothy of the coming apostasy in the Apostolic Age. He revealed that apostasy would increase (v. 13), enumerating sins of mankind that would run their full course. The perilous times would include seasons of difficulties within the last days, where the intensity of the following sins would be manifest. His litany of evils included "lovers of their own selves" (οἱ ἑαυτοὺς φιλῶντες) or a "me first" society,⁷ "covetous" (φιλάργυροι) or those loving materialism,⁸ "boasters" (ὑπερηφάνοι) or pretenders, "proud" (ὑπερήφανοι) or haughty,⁹ "blasphemers" (βλάσφημοι) or slanders, "disobedient to parents"

(γονεῦσιν ἀπειθεῖς) or young rebels,¹⁰ "unthankful" (ἀχάριστοι) or ingrates, "unholy" (ἀνόσοι) or impious, "without natural affection" (ἄστοργοι) or having no natural familial love, "trucebreakers" (ἄσπονδοι) or contract breakers, "false accusers" (διδόλογοι) or diabolical, "incontinent" (ἀκρατεῖς) or without self-control,¹¹ "fierce" (ἀνήμεροι) or savage,¹² "despisers of those that are good" (ἀφιλάγαθοι) or anti-good men, "traitors" (προδοταί) or willing to betray, "heady" (προπετεῖς) or reckless, "highminded" (τετυφωμένοι) or puffed up, and "lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God" (φιλήδονοι μᾶλλον ἢ φιλόθεοι) or hedonistic rather than holistic. Paul concluded that apostasy takes on a respectable religious nature, but in the end it has "a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof..." (v. 5). Societies that allow this behavior to run rampant, coupled with the evil leadership of which Solomon warned, saying, "If a ruler hearken to lies, all his servants are wicked" (Prov. 29:12), are ripe for divine judgment if they don't self-destruct prematurely (cf. Hos. 13:9).

Conclusion

NT church members should recognize that apostasy will abound and intensify until Christ comes back. In the mean time, they should take Paul's advice and "from such turn away" (II Tim. 3:5). Finally, John encouraged the believer saying, "And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever" (I Jn. 2:17).

¹⁰ Most public school children are the product of atheistic evolutionary inculcation and therefore reject all authority.

¹¹ This certainly refers to the mindset behind a deficit-spending society.

¹² This would include murderous sociopaths, bombers, and serial killers.

⁴Theodore Epp, *Practical Studies in Revelation* (Lincoln, NE: Back to the Bible, 1969), p. 45

⁵Harry Ironsides, *The Ironside Collection* (Neptune, NJ: Loizeaux Brothers, 1988), n.p.

⁶ J. A. Seiss, *The Apocalypse: Lectures on the Book of Revelation* (Grand Rapids: Kregel Publ. Co., 2000 reprint), p. 55.

⁷ I.e., "pro-choice" proponents.

⁸ "Mall-mania."

⁹ E. g., "the touchdown dance."

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.

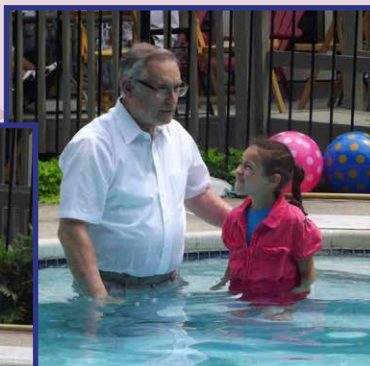
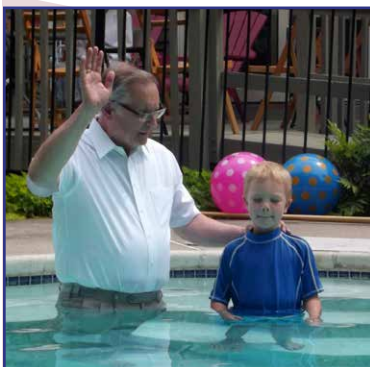


BAPTISMAL SERVICE

Bible Study

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BBTS Schedules



2013 BBTS Fall Semester Class Schedule

Mondays

<i>Greek I</i>	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
<i>Aramaic II</i>	6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
<i>Hebrew V</i>	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Wednesdays

<i>2 Corinthians</i>	8:00 AM - 11:00 AM
<i>Greek V</i>	5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Thursdays

<i>Theology Proper</i>	6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
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Fridays

<i>Greek III</i>	8:00 AM - 10:00 AM
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*All classes taught by
Dr. Thomas M. Strouse
at Bible Baptist Church*

BBTS Module Classes

Summer

July 22-26, 2013

BBTS Module Plymouth, NH
"Angelology"

August 19-23, 2013

BBTS Module Chesterton, IN
"1 Corinthians"

Fall

September 23-27, 2013

BBTS Philippine Module Quezon City,
Philippines

"The Lukan Parables" - Pastor E. Tanierla

"Biblical Economics" - Dr. Caswell Reeves

September 23-27, 2013

BBTS Europe Module Prague,
Czech Republic

"Bibliology"

"Ecclesiology"

DEVOTIONAL CORNER

What God Requires Of Thee

Deuteronomy 10:12: *And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul,*

A saved man is one who has received Jesus Christ as his Savior, repenting of his sins. This is not just a matter of one having an intellectual accent to Christ, but rather a genuine heart experience that begins with a new birth and an eternal relationship that God gives through His Son.

Our text shares what God expected from His relationship with His chosen people Israel. First that honor should be given Him through a fearful reverence. He expects respect to be shown to Him. Second that those in relationship with God walk in all His ways. He expects a faithful behavior toward His laws and commandments. Thirdly that His children love Him, giving themselves to Him wholly, singularly, and faithfully as one would given himself to his wife. And fourth that those counted worthy to be called the children of God should serve the LORD in a real way, that is, a sincere and genuine way with all of one's heart and soul.

Thus, it seems clear that when God saves someone that He expects those He saves to serve Him. This kind of service to the LORD is not just a lip service, but a real genuine heart felt working service of personal behavior. This behavior is required of saved people. It is not required for salvation but for living in one's relationship with his God. CAR



Pastor Cas Reeves presents his hard-bound copy of his 200 page Doctoral Dissertation on "Heaven's Music" to Dr. Strouse as adjunct professor Noel Meadowcroft looks on.

Quotes From the Past:



Charles H. Spurgeon,
1834-1892

A renowned Baptist Pastor in London, England: A comment he made on baptism by immersion.

Charles H. Spurgeon

"The evidence supplied by ancient monuments and baptisteries still surviving, would be conclusive in our favour were it not that upon this point the minds of men are not very open to argument."

Vacation Bible School

Honor Thy Parents



At VBS we'll learn what Ephesians has to say,
About children having their parents to obey.

The Bible says what we need to do,
To live an extra year or two.

We'll also sing, and craft, and spend time to pray.



Bible Baptist Church

Ephesians 6: 1 - 3



July 15th - 17th

9:00 AM - Noon

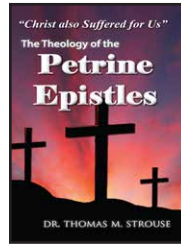
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Cromwell, CT

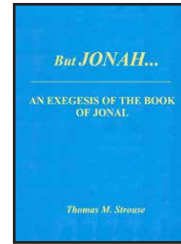
THE BOOK CORNER

The Book Corner

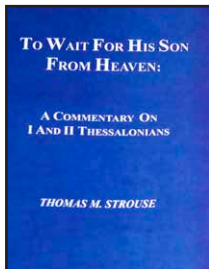
These Books may be purchased
through **Bible Baptist Church:**
40 Country Squire Rd.
Cromwell, CT 06416
860-229-5387



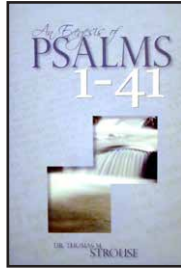
Peter
\$20.00



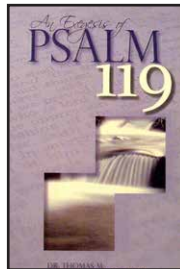
Jonah
\$10.00



I & II Thessalonians
\$10.00



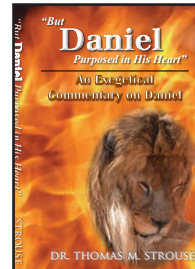
Psalms 1 - 41
\$20.00



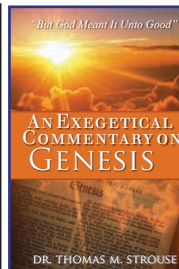
Psalm 119
\$20.00



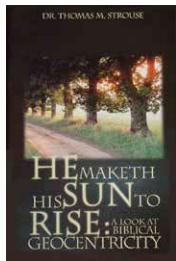
Spiritual Gifts
\$8.00



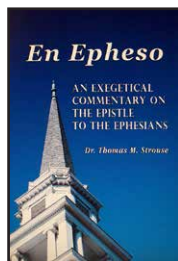
Daniel
\$20.00



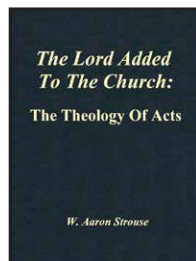
Genesis
\$20



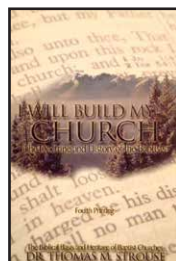
Geocentricity
\$10.00



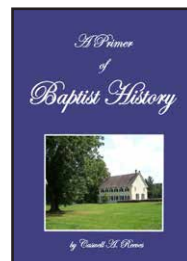
En Epheso
\$20.00



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

BBC Fishing Trip!

Several BBC men took a chartered fishing trip for Striped Bass and Blues in the Long Island Sound. The group of six men each reeled in big fish, including a 50-pound Striper caught by Mr. Rossignol!

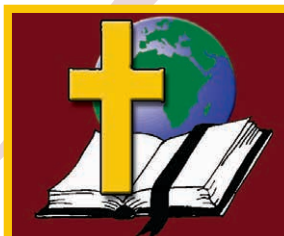


Above: Jeannot Rossignol and his monster 50 pound Striper!!

Left: Eric brought in a good sized Striper as well!!

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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Bible Baptist Theological Seminary

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