



# BBC UPDATE

## BBTS Fall Semester

Dr. Thomas Strouse



Bible Baptist Church is getting ready to house Bible Baptist Theological Seminary courses for the first semester, starting Aug. 27, 2012. BBTS is an effort under the auspices of a local NT assembly to

for the work of God. Just as a seedling needs rich soil, sufficient water, and careful protection, so do men studying the Word of God. The NT assembly gives the protection under the headship of Christ, the water supply in the water of the word, and the richness in the treasures of the Hebrew and Greek texts of the KJV.

*Dr. Thomas Strouse* offer serious biblical, theological, and linguistic studies in the OT and NT. In the last five semesters since BBC/BBTS has commenced, over 40 men have graduated with degrees, ranging from COT, BDiv, MBS, MDiv, ThD, to DD. These men are presently serving the Lord in NT assemblies in the USA and around the globe (Indonesia, Ireland, Korea, Philippines), emphasizing the truths of ecclesiology and bibliology, as Paul demanded, stating, "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is

This semester the focus will be on beginning Greek, intermediate Greek, and Greek proficiency, as well as on intermediate and advanced Hebrew, Major Cults (such as Roman Catholicism, Mormonism, Jehovah Witnesses, Scientology, New Age Movement, and eastern paganism), and on the Book of Romans. Registration will be on first day of classes. Tuition for those auditing will be \$75.00 and those taking for seminary credit \$300.00. Please see the Fall Semester Schedule on page 7.



the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth" (1Tim. 3:15). The word "seminary" comes from the Latin and means "seed bed." The local church of God is the biblical seed bed for the training of men in the word of God

## Welcome Baby Tarrats!

On August 8 2012, Pedro and Tiamo Tarrats welcomed the birth of their son, Elijah Paul. He was 9 lbs even, 21 inches long.



## BBTS/BBC Picnic!

**The annual Labor Day BBTS/BBC picnic is planned for Sept. 3, 2012 at the Strouse house from 3:00 - 7:00 PM. All past and present seminarians and all BBC members are welcome to attend!! Please RSVP to [drtms\\_bbts@juno.com](mailto:drtms_bbts@juno.com) by Aug. 27**



# DEVOTIONAL CORNER

Devotional Corner

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Perfect



Pastor Cas Reeves

God makes the statement that Job is *perfect*. This word, *perfect*, Hebrew word (*tam*), is descriptive and speaks of a quality regarding Job's position before God. The word *perfect* implies: *completeness* as James the brother of Jesus indicates when he says: *But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing* (James 1:4). The Psalmist, David used the Hebrew word (*tam*) or perfect with regards to saints who were being persecuted when he said: *That they may shoot in secret at the perfect: suddenly do they shoot at him, and fear not* (Psalm 64:4). The English word perfect is frequently use both in the Old Testament and New Testament to denote the complete or mature holiness of saints. At times the word *perfecting* is used relating to the progressive nature of the holiness of the saints. The apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 7:1, states:

*Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*

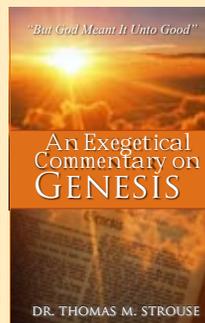
## Perfect

The New Testament reveals that in Jesus Christ all saints are made perfect or complete. *And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:* (Colossians 2:10).

Thus, when God calls one perfect as he did His servant Job, what He means is that this man is complete or mature in his holiness. Would God call you perfect? -CAR

### The Second Edition of "But God Meant It Unto Good" An Exegetical Commentary on GENESIS

BY DR. THOMAS M. STROUSE



Coming  
Soon!!

## Quotes From the Past:



Charles H. Spurgeon

### Charles H. Spurgeon , 1834-1892

Baptist Preacher of England

*"If you wish to know God you must know his word; if you wish to perceive his power you must see how he worketh by his word; if you wish to know his purpose before it is actually brought to pass you can only discover it by his word."*

# Biblical Homiletics

By Dr. Thomas Strouse

Bible Baptist Theological Seminary

## ARTICLE

### Problem

The local New Testament (NT) assembly has the sole responsibility and tremendous privilege of training men in the Word of God for the purpose of teaching and preaching the Scriptures. For instance, Paul commanded Timothy, saying, *“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also”* (II Tim. 2:2; 4:2; Mt. 28:20). As NT church men receive formal church Bible training and employ personal study to show themselves approved unto God, they will teach their wives, children, and the rest of the congregation the Scriptures. Again, the Apostle enjoined, saying *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”* (II Tim. 2:15). Men in local churches then become the spiritual and Scriptural leaders of their respective assembly for its edification. The Lord’s pattern for His assemblies is that they maintain autonomy by being self-supporting, self-propagating, self-governing, and **self-instructing**.<sup>1</sup> This last point seems lacking in many of the Lord’s assemblies because of the Protestantization of Baptist churches through the perspective and terminology of “clergy” and “layman.”<sup>2</sup> Furthermore, the unbiblical sentiments of “sermonizing”<sup>3</sup>



Dr. Thomas Strouse

and “pulpitism”<sup>4</sup> dissuade men in NT assemblies from wanting to handle the Scriptures in church services. They either feel 1) intimidated because of man-made standards, 2) inadequate in public speaking skills,<sup>5</sup> or 3) unqualified because of the lack of biblical resources.<sup>6</sup>

As a consequence of this unbiblical pattern in Baptist churches, many biblically-trained men are hesitant to teach and preach because they have never had a course in *Homiletics*. The word “homiletics” comes from the Greek *homiletikos* meaning “to assemble together,” and refers to the assembling of material for a homily or sermon. Technically, homiletics is the study of the composition and delivery of a sermon. The serious study of the Bible is necessary before it can be taught or preached. Certainly, to teach or preach, one must organize biblical material in a theologically appropriate manner and dispense it in teaching and preaching with the help of the Holy Spirit and through the power of prayer. Bible men will have Holy Spirit unction in their passion for the truth, and will use their natural skills and personality to develop and deliver a biblical message in the pulpit, to be sure. But an artificial and facile approach will be obvious and is spiritually unneeded. All men have the responsibility to study Scripture and teach

*Continued on page 4*

<sup>1</sup>Independent Baptist churches must be involved in the biblically autonomous “Four Self” church movement. Too often Baptist assemblies have looked to those outside of their own churches to minister to their members when the pulpit is empty. Of course, there is nothing unbiblical about sister churches helping one another (Rom. 12:5; 16:1-18).

<sup>2</sup>The Roman Catholic and Protestant notion that only the religious clergy can minister, and the ignorant laymen must stay out of any official service in the assembly is contrary to Eph. 4:11-12.

<sup>3</sup>Quite often the connotation of a “sermon” is that it has a striking title, an attention getting introduction, an attractive alliteration of primary pertinent preaching points, several exciting illustrations, a well-turned phrase from a poem or song, a quote from a famous theologian, and a heart-rending story in conclusion. This is rhetoric at its best but it *may not be* biblical preaching.

<sup>4</sup>To be a pulpiteer, one must have a pre-meditated approach to the pulpit, including pre-planning with regard to coordinated gestures, a certain stance, elegant movement behind and around the pulpit, the appropriate pause in enunciation, the thoughtful look, and the subtle inflection of the voice. Pulpiters are the ultimate religious showmen and entertainers. Holy Spirit preaching does not need human devices.

<sup>5</sup>There is a place for “stage fright” in public speaking, even for Christians, because it makes one dependent upon the Spirit of God (Phil. 2:13). However, the divine burden associated with presenting the truth quite often offsets the nervousness and frees the preacher to preach in the boldness of *“thus saith the Lord.”*

<sup>6</sup>Did not the Apostle Paul give the basic source book in the preacher’s bibliography, saying, *“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 good works”* (II Tim. 3:16-17)?

# BIBLICAL HOMILETICS

*Continued from page 3*

and preach it to their family, and ultimately to their church family. The point is that all Baptist church men should be in the lifetime process of learning Scripture so that they may be able to teach and preach it to their family, friends, and fellow church members. The men of NT assemblies are the spiritual backbone to their respective churches, and they must be willing to fill the pulpit as biblically taught teachers and preachers when the pastor is absent, or when he desires a man to teach/preach.

## Biblical Approach

The Scripture does give several examples and principles for biblical preaching. For example, Ezra preached from the *Torah*, giving the classic model for the handling of Scripture publicly (Neh. 8:1-18). Several principles emerge, including the following:

1. Ezra read from the preserved text of the *Torah* to the people at the appointed time (vv. 1-3).
2. The people paid attention (v. 3).
3. Ezra read in the public view of all, and the people stood up (vv. 4-5).
4. Ezra prayed and the people united with him in prayer (v. 6).
5. Ezra read the Scriptures "*distinctly*" (פָּרַשׁ *parash* = parse), "*gave the sense*" (שֵׂכַל *secel* = skill, or skillful interpretation), and caused them to "*understand*" (בִּינָה *biyn* = discern the application) the Scriptures (v. 8). In other words, Ezra gave them the parsed Context, immediate Interpretation, and practical Application of the Word of God. He gave them the C.I.A. of preaching. That is, Ezra gave the CONTEXT, INTERPRETATION, and APPLICATION homiletical approach to handling the Scriptures.
6. The people came under great conviction (vv. 9-11).
7. When they made their personal and col-

lective decision<sup>7</sup> to obey the *Torah*, they rejoiced (vv. 12-13).

8. They understood the Context, Interpretation, and Application about the feast of tabernacles (Lev. 23:34-44), and became compliant with the preached Word of God (vv. 14-18)!
9. Neither Ezra nor his attendants were sermonizers or pulpiteers, but they were Spirit-endowed men who handled the Scripture biblically and saw spiritual fruit from their basic and simple exposition of the *Torah*.

In the New Testament, Stephen was a classic example of a Spirit-filled deacon who preached a powerful message of conviction to the lost, merely exegeting

the history of the Old Testament (OT) and concluding with how the Scriptures spoke of Jesus of Nazareth the Christ (Acts 7:2-53). Paul was ready to preach (cf. II



*BBC Member Brother Jeff Skorupski teaching an Adult Sunday School lesson* the multitudes in Jerusalem, using a hand gesture and giving his personal salvation testimony (Acts 21:37-22:21). Although not a showman, his preaching brought about great conviction. In fact, Paul admitted about his own preaching, saying, "*And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power*" (I Cor. 2:3-4). The Apostle Paul gave in-

*Continued on page 5*

<sup>7</sup>Biblical teaching and preaching causes 100% of the audience (including the preacher) to make decisions every time they hear the Word of God, because the audience must decide to receive or reject the truth preached. If invitations are given, then everyone must come forward about his/her respective decision. Since this is the case, why give invitations?

*Continued from page 4*

struction to Timothy about the handling of the Word of God in church services, saying, "Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine" (I Tim. 4:13). Finally, the Lord Jesus Himself is the epitome of biblical teaching and preaching, speaking to the heart of sinners and saints alike, building upon the OT and expounding truths in simple and direct manner (cf. the four *Gospels*). Historically, Anabaptists before the Reformation trained their own men within the assembly to handle



*BBC Member Brother Ryan Strouse preaching during the afternoon service.*

the Word of God with the prospect of filling their own pulpit, and of being a potential candidate for the church pastorate. Should we not learn from Scripture and history?

cess, under their respective pastor, of learning Scripture in its context, so that proper interpretation and application may be made. Certainly any biblically trained man could read Scripture, give an exhortation, and pray, and should be willing to do this if necessary. This will enable churches to be self-instructing when the pastor is absent or desires a man to preach. This essay is not an effort to demean church pulpits or the pastorate,<sup>8</sup> but to encourage the Lord's pastors and assemblies to behave biblically as to the perpetuation of truth from the pulpit. The Lord's Baptist assemblies need to get back to the biblical principle of men training men for the perpetuation of the truth in their churches. Independent Baptists do not need in their pulpits sermonizers and pulpiteers, who have "aced" a Bible college or seminary course on Homiletics, and thereby entertaining the saints with rhetoric and posturing. We need biblically-trained men of God led by the Spirit of God with the Word of God to edify the churches of God. Let us become autonomous churches which are self-supporting, self-propagating, self-governing, and SELF-INSTRUCTING!

## Conclusion

Since God has promised to bless His Word (Isa. 55:11), the Bible should be predominate in biblical teaching and preaching. The Bible gives its own Context and Interpretation, and the Spirit of God gives the Application, whether the teacher/preacher has an application or not. All church men should be in the pro-

<sup>8</sup>The Scripture does make a distinction between a pastor and the teacher/preacher. Not all teachers and preachers are pastors, but all pastors are teachers and preachers (cf. Eph. 4:11; I Tim. 3:1-7; II Tim. 1:11).

## Team Travels to Europe

This team from Community Baptist Church, Quakertown, PA, will go to Europe and will visit Germany, England and Ireland in September, ministering the Word of God to churches. They will minister to some of the churches with pastors who are alumni of BBTS. Dr. Noel Meadowcroft is adjunct professor of BBTS.



*Above: William Gotwals, Mark Richards, Pastor David Smith, and Adjunct professor Noel Meadowcroft*

Bible Baptist Theological Seminary presents  
The Third Annual Fall Lecture Series

FALL LECTURE SERIES

Fall Lecture Series

6

Announcement

# "Biblical Worship"

Pastor Steven Bates

*"Biblical Preaching  
in Worship"*



Paster Steven Bates

**Friday,  
November 9, 2012**

**9:00 AM to 4:00 PM**

**Courtyard by Marriott  
4 Sebeth Dr.  
Cromwell, CT 06416**

Dr. Thomas Strouse

*"False Worship within  
Christianity"*



Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

Lunch will be provided  
with free-will offering.  
A book table will be avail-  
able with relevant material.

Pastor Cas Reeves

*"Heavenly Music  
in Worship"*



Pastor Cas Reeves



RSVP by November 2, 2012 with  
total number in your party.  
BBTS,

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Drtms\_bbts@juno.com

[www.bbc-cromwell.org](http://www.bbc-cromwell.org)

# 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.

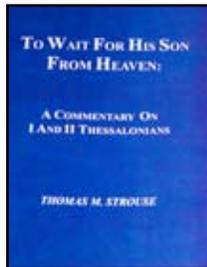


## BBTS Fall Schedule

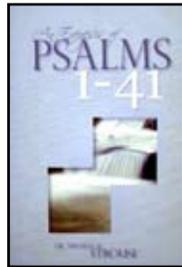
<b>Monday</b>	
Greek Proficiency	10AM - Noon
Advanced Hebrew VIII	6 - 7 PM
Hebrew III	7 - 9 PM
<b>Wednesday/Thursday</b>	
Romans	8 - 10:30 AM
Greek III	5 - 7 PM
<b>Thursday</b>	
Cults	6 - 9 PM
<b>Friday</b>	
Greek I	8 - 10 AM

## The Book Corner

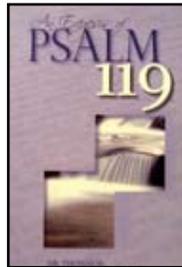
These Books may be purchased through **Bible Baptist Church:**  
 40 Country Squire Rd.  
 Cromwell, CT 06416  
 860-229-5387



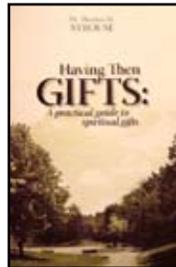
I & II Thessalonians  
\$10.00



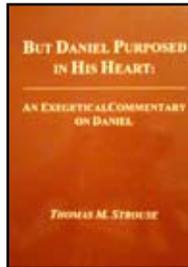
Psalms 1 - 41  
\$20.00



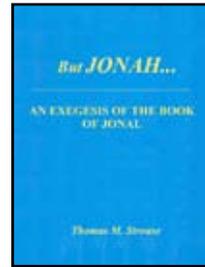
Psalms 119  
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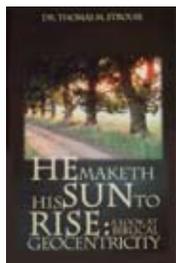
Spiritual Gifts  
\$8.00



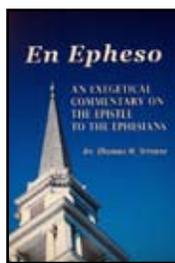
Daniel  
\$20.00



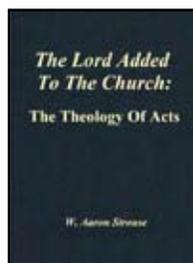
Jonah  
\$10.00



Geocentricity  
\$10.00



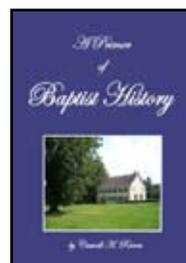
En Epheso  
\$20.00



The Theology of Acts  
\$20.00



I Will Build My Church  
\$15.00



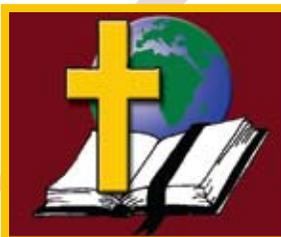
A Primer of Baptist History  
\$20.00



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

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