

4th Annual **BBTS Fall Lecture Series**



Dr. Thomas Strouse

On November 15, 2013, the Lord blessed the fourth annual BBTS Fall Lecture Series with an emphasis on Sound Doctrine in the Book of Titus. Drs. Reeves, Sebrell and Strouse presented different facets of the Epistle to Titus dealing with "Sound Doctrine and the Congregation," "Sound Doctrine and the

Dr. Thomas Strouse Pastor," and "Sound Doctrine and Heretics," respectively. At least 17 NT churches were represented from CT, MA, NH, NY, and VA with fourteen pastors and assistant pastors in attendance. Pastor Steve Bates and Mr. Bill Gagnon sang a duet, and Mrs. Elena Sherwood sang the words of Ps. 119:33-40 accompanied by harpist Miss Krista Hagglund to provide wonderful music for the day. The fellowship

was sweet as the church members from various churches enjoyed unity "after the common faith" (Tit. 1:4). Electronic copies of the outlines will be posted on the BBC web site www.bbc-cromwell.org





Above: The pastors and missionaries in attendance at the Lecture Series.

Left: Elena Sherwood sang part of Psalm 119, accompanied by Krista Hagglund on the harp.

There were over 80 attendees at the 4th Annual Lecture Series

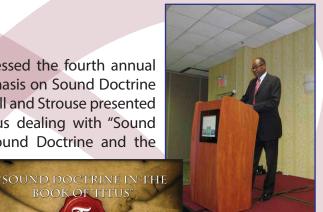
BOOK OF TITUS

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Titus

Report from the Filipino Pastors

Both Pastor Emmanuel Tanierla of Iloilo and Jed Raguintan of Quezon City have reported that the latest storm, the mega-typhoon, which hit the Philippines did minor damage to their church buildings, and caused loss of power, no lives were lost within their congregations. We are thankful for the Lord's protection on these friends and trust that He will bring redemption through this tragedy. Please contact these men if you are interested in giving help or encouragement to them.



Dr. Roger Sebrell preaching on "Sound Doctrine and the Pastor" at the Lecture Series

Vol. 4 Num. 23

CHRISTMAS BANQUET



You are cordially invited to the 4th Annual BBC/BBTS Christmas Banquet at Bible Baptist Church Friday Dec. 13, 2012 from 6-9 PM. The Banquet is for all church members of BBC and Bible Baptist Theological Seminary alumni, seminarians, or friends!

Gift Exchange

exchange (\$10 range). Each attendee should bring a wrapped gift for this traditional and will be using the nursery when you RSVP.

Nursery

Part of the evening's activities will entail a gift A nursery will be provided however, it is important that you indicate how many children

RSVP

Please RSVP to: drtms_bbts@juno.com by December 1, 2013.

spirited event! histmas

More Lecture Series Photos



Brother Jim Lawrence shared his burden for a new work in Utah



Pastor Cas Reeves "Sound Doctrine & the Congregation"



Pastor & Mrs. Roger Sebrell



Pastor Steve Bates & Brother Bill Gagnon sing "Ship Ahoy"

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Sound Doctrine in Titus

Dr. Thomas Strouse

I. BACKGROUND

- A. Titus the Man
 - 1. Titus (Τίτος)¹ was converted through Paul's ministry and was a Gentile (Tit. 1:5; Gal. 2:1-3).
 - 2. Paul and Barnabas took Titus of Jerusalem to demonstrate the conversion of this Gentile (Acts 15:1 ff.; Gal. 2:1-3).
 - 3. Titus had encouraged Paul that the Corinthians had responded to his First Epistle to them (II Cor. 2:13-15; 7:5-16). Paul then wrote II Corinthians and sent it back with Titus who was to also collect money for the Jerusalem assembly (II Cor. 8:16-23).
 - 4. During his two known Roman imprisonments, Paul took Titus to Crete and left him there hoping to rejoin at Nicopolis (Tit. 1:5; 3:12).
 - 5. Titus was with Paul towards the end, but left Rome and went back to minister Dalmatia (II Tim. 4:10).
 - 6. Tradition states that Titus died of natural causes on Crete.
- B. The Island of Crete
 - 1. This long and narrow island was in the Mediterranean Sea with Salmone and Fair Havens as significant cities (cf. Acts 27:7-21).
 - 2. Converts from Pentecost presumably went back and planted churches (Acts 2:11).
 - 3. The Cretians manifested wickedness to such an extent that Epimenides their poet said "Cretians *are* alway liars, evil beasts, slow bellies" (Tit. 1:12).
- C. The Time, Place and Purpose
 - 1. On his prosperous journey to Rome (Rom. 1:10), he stopped on Crete, and apparently after his release he wrote I Timothy and came back to the island with Titus (c. AD 62). At some point Zenas the lawyer and Apollos joined Titus in his efforts (3:13)
 - 2. Paul started churches in many cities and left Titus there for several reasons:
 - a. To ordain elders in every church (1:5),
 - b. To refute the false teachers,
 - c. To speak sound doctrine to elders, church members, and false teachers,
 - d. To encourage the church members about the responsibility of "good works."

SERMON OUTLINE

II. OUTLINE

- A. Introduction (1:1-4)
- B. Sound Doctrine and Elders (1:5-16)
- C. Sound Doctrine and the Congregation (2:1-10)
- D. Sound Doctrine and the Christian Life (2:11-3:8)
- E. Sound Doctrine and Heretics (3:9-11)
- F. Conclusion (3:12-15)

III. "SOUND DOCTRINE"

- A. The Expression
 - 1. "Sound" (ὑγιαίνω)² "to be sound"
 - a. Physical usage (Mt. 8:13; Lk. 5:31; 7:10; 15:27; III Jn. 1:2)
 - b. Theological usage (I Tim. 1:10; 6:3; II Tim. 1:13; 4:3; Tit. 1:9, 13; 2:1)
 - 2. "Doctrine" (διδασκαλία)
 - a. Translated doctrine (19x), teaching (1x), learning (1x).
 - b. In Titus 4x (Tit. 1:9; 2:1, 7, and 10)
- B. The Passages
 - "For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine [τῆ ὑγιαινούσῃ διδασκαλία]" (I Tim. 1:10).
 - "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine [τῆς ὑγιαινούσης διδασκαλίας]; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears" (II Tim. 4:3).
 - "Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine [tŷ διδασκαλία τŷ ὑγιαινούση] both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers" (Tit. 1:9).
 - 4. "But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine [τῆ ὑγιαινούσῃ διδασκαλία]" (Tit. 2:1).

IV. THE DOCTRINE OF GOOD WORKS

- A. False Teachers have no good works: "They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate" (1:16).
- B. Sound Doctrine leads to good works:

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¹The proper noun probably means "nurse." It is found 13x in the body of the TR and 2x in the subscripts (II Cor. 13:14 and Tit. 3:15).

²The noun ὑγιής occurs 14x (cf. Tit. 2:8). The term "hygiene" comes from this Greek noun.

SERMON OUTLINE

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- 1. "In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity" (2:7).
- 2. "Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works" (2:14).
- 3. "This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men" (3:8).
- 4. "And let ours also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful" (3:14).

V. THE DOCTRINE OF FALSE TEACHERS ("Heretick")³

A. Their Precepts (Tit. 1:14)

- Jewish Fables (Ἰουδαϊκοῖς μύθοις): see I Tim. 1:4; 4:7; II Tim. 4:4; and II Pet. 2:16 for μῦθος.
- 2. Commandments of Men (ἐντολαῖς ἀνθρώπων): *vide* Mt. 15:9 and Mk. 7:7.
 - a. Paul did not elaborate on the Jewish fables.
 - b. Paul did seem to link together the heresies of the Jews with those of the Gnostics (Col. 2:8-23).
 - The Jews erroneously emphasized circumcision (vv. 11, 13), angels (vv. 10, 15, and 18), and holydays (v. 16), and may have had fables surrounding these tenets.
 - 2) The Greek Gnostic philosophers taught demonic doctrines of the rudiments (v. 8) requiring men to move upward toward deification through the *pleroma* (vv. 9-10). This involved worshipping angels (v. 18), mortification of the flesh (vv. 21, 23), narcissism (v. 23) and false humility (v. 23).
 - c. Ultimately, all false systems are built upon the premise that man can save himself.

- B. Their Practices and Persons
 - "unruly" (ἀνυπότακτοι)
 - 2. "vain talkers" (ματαιολόγοι)
 - "deceivers" (φρεναπάται)
 - "subvert whole houses" (οἴτινες ὅλους οἴκους ἀνατρέπουσι)
 - "teaching...for filthy lucre's sake" (αἰσχροῦ κέρδους χάριν)
 - 6. "liars" (ψεῦσται)
 - 7. "defiled" (τοῖς μεμιασμένοις)
 - **8. "unbelieving"** (ἀπίστοις)
 - 9. "profess to know God...deny him", Θεόν ὁμολογοῦ σιν εἰδέναι, τοῖς δὲ ἔργοις ἀρνοῦνται)
 - 10. "abominable" (βδελυκτοί)
 - 11. "disobedient" (ἀπειθεῖς)
 - 12. "reprobate" (ἀδόκιμοι)
- C. Their Prescription (Tit. 1:9; 2:10, 13)
 - By sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince (παρακαλεῖν ἐν τῆ διδασκαλία τῆ ὑγιαινούσῃ, καὶ ἐλέγχειν).
 - 2. Stop mouths (οῦς δεῖ ἐπιστομίζειν)
 - 3. Rebuke sharply (έλεγχε αὐτοὺς ἀποτόμως)
 - 4. Avoid the following (Tit. 3:9):
 - a. "foolish questions" (μωρὰς ζητήσεις)
 - b. "genealogies" (γενεαλογίαζ)
 - **c.** "contentions" (ἕρεις)
 - d. "strivings about the law" (μάχας νομικάς)
 - 5. Admonish twice and then reject (μίαν καὶ δευτέραν νουθεσίαν παραιτοῦ [Tit. 3:10]). This would be through church discipline since there is no other means of rejection of false teachers.
- VI. CONTEXT OF CHAPTER THREE
 - A. Sound Doctrine and the Christian Life (2:11-3:8)
 - 1. It Requires Good Works (3:1-3)
 - a. Relative to Secular Leaders (3:1).
 - b. Relative to Sinners (3:2-3).
 - 2. It Realizes Genuine Regeneration (3:4-8)
 - a. The Author—God our Saviour (3:4).
 - b. The Act—washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost (3:5).
 - c. The Abundance—in grace, hope, and eternal life. (3:6-7).
 - d. The Affirmation—belief leads to good works (3:8).
 - B. Sound Doctrine and Heretics (3:9-11)
 - 1. Avoid their techniques (3:9)
 - 2. Admonish (3:10)
 - 3. Advise (3:11)
 - C. Conclusion (3:12-15)

Sermon Outline

³ The adjective α tpettkóc occurs once in NT and gives the sense of "choosing." A theological choice contrary to the religious norm or standard is a heresy. A teaching contrary to the Bible is heresy.

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VII. APPLICATION OF SOUND DOCTRINE

- A. Examples of modern heresies based on myths and traditions of men.
 - Myths (μύθοις)
 - a. The myth of the "Q" document behind the common source for the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke.
 - b. The myth of Christ and the Apostles quoting the LXX.
 - c. The myth of a non-canonical "bitter letter" written to the Corinthians.
 - d. The myth that scholars are to restore the Lord's non-preserved words Greek and Hebrew words.
 - e. The myth of some "spiritual body" or universal, invisible church into which all Christians are Spirit baptized.
 - 2. Traditions of Men (ἐντολαῖς ἀνθρώπων)
 - a. The tradition that only Fundamental doctrines are important enough to defend.
 - b. The tradition that there are many "non-essentials" in the Bible that are relegated to preference only (i.e., mode of baptism).

SERMON OUTLINE

- c. The tradition that parachurch ministries (which are under the aegis of no assembly) have divine authority.
- d. The tradition that there are organizational hierarchies that have inferred authority over the Lord's assemblies.

B. Biblical Implementation of Sound Doctrine

- 1. Each NT assembly must determine Sound Doctrine and heretical departures.
- 2. These churches must teach these truths to assembly members.
- 3. The Lord's churches must then examine their respective practices to make sure they are not compromising their doctrine.
 - a. What about the missionaries and mission agencies they finance?
 - b. What about their schools and education institutions they support?
 - c. What about preachers, pulpit supply, evangelists, etc., they invite in to cover the pulpit?

SOUND DOCTRINE LEADS TO GOOD WORKS!



DEVOTIONAL CORNER

Christ And Our Difficulties



Pastor Cas Reeves

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them"

Ecclesiastes 12:1

From time to time we all have our troubling and some times

discouraging moments; We call them our bad days. In our text, God calls them "the evil days," when we say, "I have no pleasure in them." We are told to: "Remember now thy Creator." Remember what he said, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me" (John 14:6). Beloved for those troubling moments we need to keep trusting Jesus Christ our Savior.

In those anxious times, "Remember now thy Creator" and what he said, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof" (Matthew 6:33,34). We are told not to worry about the problems of tomorrow just make, but to put Christ Jesus first in our life today. He is the one that promises to get us through. Let us trust Him.

"Remember now thy Creator" and what he said through the Apostle Paul, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). The very worst of doldrums, our Creator tells us, that it works for our good. Now, that is encouraging. We should learn, God can turn any thing to our best interest. We should take note of the Apostle's victorious attitude as he went though the doldrums. He said, "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest" (2 Corinthians 4:8-10). He exemplifies, keeping our thoughts on Christ through all our difficulties. - CAR

Juotes From the Past:



Charles H. Spurgeon, 1834-1892 English Baptist Preacher

"You say, 'If I had a little more, I should be very satisfied.' You make a mistake. If you are not content with what you have, you would not be satisfied if it were doubled."

Charles Spurgeon

BBC Music Ministry



The Schabert Men ministered in song during the morning service.

Upcoming BBC/BBTS Events

Homeschool Safety Day Department Tours Tuesday, November 26, 1:00 PM at Cromwell Police and Fire Departments

> BBC Christmas Banquet Friday, December 13, 6:00 PM

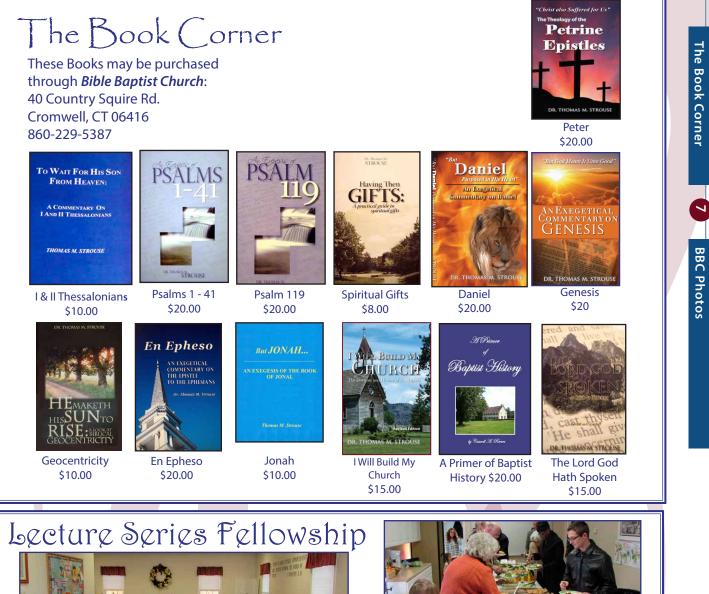
BBC Youth Christmas Program Sunday, December 22, 1:30 PM

BBC Ladies Meeting Saturday, March 8, 2013

See www.bbc-cromwell.org for more information

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The Book Corner





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



As usual, a large amount of delicious food was

As usual, a large amount of delicious food was served for the Lecture Series Luncheon!

Bible Baptist Theological Seminary *A ministry of Bible Baptist Church* 40 Country Squire Road Cromwell, CT 06416 860-613-2096 www.bbc-cromwell.org