

BBC UPDATE

BBC—First Anniversary!!

Dr. Thomas M. Strouse, Pastor



Dr. Strouse

On Dec. 3, 2009, the Lord led eight families to leave Emmanuel Baptist Church of Newington, CT, and form Bible Baptist Church as a church plant in Cromwell, CT (church members start churches). Another family from a different area church joined and subsequently one more family from Emmanuel Baptist Church joined, giving Bible Baptist Church an initial nucleus of ten families. Twenty-seven baptized believers signed the Church Covenant on that Thursday night, constituting one of the Saviour's NT Candlesticks (Rev. 1:20). Immediately, this assembly met in homes until she was able to have her present location zoned for "religious assembly." In the mean time, the Lord brought in sufficient tithes and offerings to support amply the pastor and keep current with all bills, and blessed the assembly with many gifts such as a piano and a new hand-crafted pulpit. In addition to the church ministry, the seminary ministry of Dr. Strouse continued as Bible Baptist Theological Seminary. Seminarians enrolled for the winter and spring classes, and national pastors/missionaries took the Ireland and Filipino modules. Bible Baptist Theological Seminary held its first Spring Lecture Series and graduated five men (two of which were from the Filipino modules) from the seminary in the 2010 Commencement Services. Furthermore, in late summer and also November, the Lord Jesus Christ added to the church through water baptism eleven saved sinners to the congregation (I Cor. 12:18). We thank the Lord for what He is doing through His "little flock" (cf. Lk. 12:32).

Sometimes the question is asked about the authority for Bible Baptist Church's existence—who is the "mother church" (using a SBC expression)? The same as all other NT churches—the church at Jerusalem (Mt. 10:1 ff; 16:18; 18:15-20; Mt. 26:26-30; Mt. 28:19-20). The Lord Jesus Christ gave divine authority to His Baptist assembly in Jerusalem to carry out

the Great Commission, which commission is the planting of NT immersionist assemblies (Mt. 28:19-2). Bible Baptist Church's divine authority for biblical existence resides in these aforementioned NT Scriptures, and can be traced biblically back to this church (albeit, the Lord was not concerned about the historical pedigree of the seven Asian churches in *Revelation*, but about their doctrine and practice). Several have recognized this authority for Bible Baptist Church's existence. 1) For instance, area, national, and international pastors have recognized the legitimacy of Bible Baptist Church's existence, with three churches supporting the seminary ministry regularly. 2) The Lord Himself has recognized the legitimacy of Bible Baptist Church's existence through His obvious blessing with abundance on the church, financially, physically, and spiritually. 3) Finally, the archenemy has recognized the legitimacy of Bible Baptist Church's existence through continuous and sometimes frightening efforts to thwart the work of God.

As the Lord has separated Bible Baptist Church unto the area of Cromwell, CT, we can say with the Psalmist, "*Rejoice in the LORD, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness*" (Ps. 97:12). Pray for us, brethren.



The founding families of Bible Baptist Church.

Fall Lecture Series

Lecture Series

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BBC/BPTS

The Fall Lectures Series with Dr. Charles Parker was a great blessing, as Dr. Parker preached from the first chapter of Isaiah, expounding the characteristics of “the Messenger of the Lord.” About ten churches were represented with close to sixty in attendance, coming from NY, PA, NH, MA, and CT. The messages were challenging and the fellowship was sweet around biblical truths. Dr. Parker has the ability to disarm the audience with his demeanor, and then drive home penetrating questions through the exposition of Scripture, while challenging the hearer to become more biblical in world-view, vocabulary, and practice. The messages are available on our web site: www.bbc-cromwell.org



Dr. Charles Parker preaching at the BPTS Fall Lecture Series.



Above: Some of the Pastors in attendance at the Lecture Series.

Left: Over 60 people attended the Fall Lecture Series!



Godliness

by Pastor Cas Reeves

*“But godliness with contentment is great gain.”
1 Timothy 6:6*

Godliness is a God-ward attitude that causes a well-pleasing walk before the Lord. We are told also, that if we are satisfied in this godliness, we have a great acquisition.



Pastor Cas Reeves encouraged to “adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamfacedness and sobriety; which becometh women professing godliness” (2 Timothy 2:9-10).

The importance of godliness is reflected in the Christian’s forward look. “Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons

DEVOTIONAL CORNER

ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness” (2 Peter 3:11). Comparing the physical and spiritual exercises of life the Christian is warned and encouraged that “bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come” (1 Timothy 4:8).

Revealing the mystery of godliness, the Apostle Paul said, “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory” (1 Timothy 3:16). We learn that godliness is in Christ. We conclude that godliness is a Christ-like attitude that causes a Christ-like walk. Do we see that walk in our life? Are we satisfied/content with that walk? Is that great acquisition, godliness, found in our life? -CAR

Fall Lecture Series



The food and fellowship was sweet at the Fall Lecture Series!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

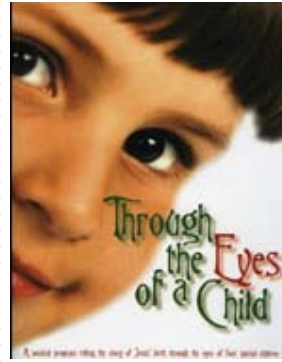


L - R: Pastor Cas Reeves, Dr. Thomas Strouse, Dr. David Cloud and Pastor Dave Smith at luncheon in Pennsylvania.

2010 BBTS Fall Calendar

December 4	Christmas Party
December 13-15	Final Exams
December 17	Semester End

BBC Children's Christmas Program



The BBC Youth will be presenting "Through the Eyes of a Child", a Christmas Musical in which the account of Jesus' birth is given from a different perspective. The program will be held during the 1:30 PM Sunday afternoon service on **December 19**. All are welcome to attend!

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 / BBC Christmas Party!

On **Saturday December 4, 2010**, BBC will have her first BBTS Christmas Party for church members and former seminarians under Dr. Strouse's tutelage. This will also be a time of celebrating the first year anniversary of BBC, which officially started on Dec. 3, 2009.

Nursery

A nursery will be provided however, *it is important that you indicate how many children will be using the nursery when you RSVP.*

Gift Exchange

Part of the evening's activities will entail a gift exchange (\$10 range). Each attendee should bring a wrapped gift for this traditional and spirited event!

RSVP

Friends and former seminarians with their families are invited. You must RSVP to

drtms_bbts@juno.com

by **Dec. 3, 2010**, since there will be limited seating.

When Churches Defraud Brethren (I Cor. 6:1-8)

Dr. Thomas M. Strouse



Dr. Strouse

The Apostle Paul condemned the Corinthian church for the practice of defrauding believers (I Cor. 6:1-8). Apparently some church members were attempting to litigate grievances with other church members in secular courts. He admonished them to cease taking legal/finances matters between Christians before the secular world. He remonstrated that they had the spiritual wherewithal, through spiritual discernment and wise men (not necessarily limited to deacons) to settle matters, since Christians will judge the world and angels. Furthermore, this practice was “a fault” (v. 7), or literally “a defeat” or “a diminishing” (cf. Rom. 11:12)—both Christian parties are defeated already as the name of Christ is shamed (v. 5).

Paul’s concluding comments show what is really spiritually significant. Why not be Christ-like and suffer being wronged and defrauded? Christ did. Peter revealed the Lord’s submission to gross injustice in His trial and crucifixion, saying, “For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, **suffering wrongfully**. For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, **when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God**. For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: **Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously**” (1 Peter 2:19-23). The Lord Jesus Christ trusted in God to rectify all wrongs. Believers should as well.

Finally, the Apostle condemned the Corinthians’ practice, saying, “Nay, ye do wrong, and defraud, and that your brethren” (v. 8). Rather than attempting reconciliation with one another, churches or church members who defraud believers do “wrong” and are guilty of unrighteousness behavior. The Scripture warns severely, saying, “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap” (Gal. 6:7). Churches that defraud brethren will be judged by the holy, righteous Lord. Several Scriptural truths will be borne out upon those churches which defraud believers over legal/financial matters.

1. Defrauding churches will lose their good name and favor with the Lord. “A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver

SERMON

and gold” (Prov. 22:1).

2. The pastor of the defrauding church will be held accountable for the church as she loses her candlestick position. “Remember therefore from whence **thou** art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto **thee** quickly, and will remove **thy** candlestick out of his place, except **thou** repent” (Rev. 2:4).
3. The pastor and people (by complicity) will receive the Lord’s condemnation of *Icabod* (I Sam.4:21) upon their worship, if they refuse reconciliation with the defrauded brother. “Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.” (Mt. 5:23-24).
4. Defrauding churches will be recognized by the Lord’s true assemblies and rejected. “Now I beseech you, brethren, **mark** them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and **avoid** them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple” (Rom. 16:17-18).
5. Those who defraud believers will suffer trouble with their ill-gotten revenue. “In the house of the righteous is much treasure: but in the **revenues of the wicked is trouble**” (Prov. 15:6).

It is a serious thing for Christians or churches to offend and defraud a brother. Did not the Saviour Himself warn, saying, “Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; **but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!**” (Mt. 18:7)? There is always room for confession of sin and reconciliation for those who will humble themselves before a holy God and repent and seek out forgiveness. Christ said, “Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him” (Lk. 17:3).



JAMES AND ASTRONOMY

Part 3 of a 3 Part Series

Seminary Article

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James/Astronomy

James and Astronomy (James 1:13-18):

All the Christian Needs to Know about Solar Parallax

By Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

The Planets, Lights and Tropics

The Planets

The noun “planet,” although not found in the Bible,²⁴ astronomically refers to an astral object that wanders through its orbit. Planets as such have orbits around the sun that is in the heavens. The Lord placed the sun with its wandering planets in the firmament. The earth, however, is distinct from the heavens (i.e., firmament) and was never placed in the heavens (cf. Gen. 1:1-19).²⁵ Therefore, the earth is **not** a planet, although evolutionists have inculcated their anti-biblical teaching upon

...Therefore, the earth is not a planet...

the terminology of the western world.²⁶ The closest the Bible comes to referring to a planet is Jude’s reference (1:13) to likening apostates to “wandering stars” (*asteras planetai*). Since the noun planet is not mentioned in Scripture, the Lord surely does not place any importance on this part of His creation other than to give a spiritual warning for mankind to avoid apostasy by straying from the

²⁴Although the Hebrew word *mazzaloth* is translated “planets” in II Ki. 23:5 (cf. Job 38:32 for the Hebrew *mazzoroth*).

²⁵The Bible writers utilize the expression “heaven and earth” at least thirty-one times, always distinguishing between these two realms (cf. e.g., Mt. 24:35).

²⁶Even many Christians have been brainwashed by evolutionary philosophy in using un-Scriptural terminology. The Bible never once calls the earth *a planet*.

revealed truth.²⁷ Professed Christians should give no thought to whether planets will give further knowledge about the origin and purpose of the heavens.²⁸ When a man contemplates planets, his concern should be if he would become a “wandering star.”

The Lights

James asserted that God was the Father of lights, corroborating other Scripture (cf. Isa. 45:7). As the Father, He created light by giving the divine fiat “*Let there be light*” (*ye-hiy or* יהי אור) on Day One (Gen. 1:2). As He had spoken His creation into existence (Heb. 11:3) He spoke the creation of

... Professed Christians should give no thought to whether planets will give further knowledge about the origin and purpose of the heavens.

light into existence. His vocalized consonants “*Let there be light*” produced the vibrations which manifested “*light*” (*or* אור).²⁹ The psalmist revealed that Jehovah initially covered Himself “*with light as with a garment*” (Ps. 104:2) and moved upon the face of the earth as the original light source (Gen. 1:2), dispelling darkness with light. This apparently was the morning light (cf. I Sam. 14:36; 25:22, 34, 36; 29:10; II Sam. 17:22; 23:4; II Kings 7:9; Isa. 58:8; Mi. 2:1) of the first day and the first of the four created lights. Solomon referred to “*the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars*” (Eccl. 12:2),³⁰all of

²⁷How ironic it is that evolutionists are “wandering stars.”

²⁸The Christian already knows that the Lord’s purpose on earth is to meet the spiritual needs of lost mankind. John summarized this truth, saying, “*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life*” (Jn. 3:16).

²⁹The Scripture gives the Lord’s quote, revealing these actual words, which were His breath (II Tim. 3:16), and consequently His words vibrated light into existence (this would suggest that light is a wave rather than a particle). Could it be that Quantum Physics, with its Ten Superstrings theory of vibrating strings as the ultimate foundation, is catching up with the Bible?

³⁰All four nouns are articular and the last three are separated with the *waw* conjunction, distinguishing four distinct lights.

JAMES AND ASTRONOMY

which have separate glories (cf. I Cor. 15:41). Later, on the fourth day, the sun, moon, and stars also contributed as moving light sources for the heavens.

The Tropics

James used the term *trope* ("turning") in his expression "*shadow of turning*" referring to a shadow caused by turning. As he utilized other astronomical terms to teach spiritual realities about God, it seems he was referring to the seasonal shadows cast by the sun in its annual orbit around the earth. Since the axis of the stationary earth is absolutely north and south (Job 26:7),³¹ the sun's plane is not coincident with the earth's but is oblique by 23 1/2 degrees, causing shadows to be cast on the different hemispheres from the region of the Poles to the Tropics. Only the area between the two Tropics,³² including the equator, receives direct sunlight, and especially twice a year when the sun is directly overhead on the equator. On the summer solstice (June 22), the sun passes the zenith at its

... The Lord Jesus Christ created the heavens and earth and then revealed within His Scriptures the full extent that man may know absolutely...

highest point on the Northern Hemisphere on the first day of summer, shining directly and causing summer, while at the same time shining obliquely on the Southern Hemisphere causing winter. This is reversed six months later at the winter solstice (Dec. 22). The region from the equator to 23 1/2 degrees North latitude and from the equator to 23 1/2 degrees South latitude receives direct sunlight and is warm year around (i.e., tropical).

The point that James seemed to make was that on a daily basis it is nearly impossible to detect the sun's tropi-

³¹The Lord created the earth's axis north and south with reference to the heavens. The psalmist Ethan stated, "*The heavens are thine, the earth also is thine: as for the world and the fulness thereof, thou hast founded them. The north and the south thou hast created them...*" (Ps. 89:11-12). Even the New Jerusalem will be located absolutely with respect to the directions of north, south, east and west in the New Heavens and Earth (cf. Rev. 21:1; 13).

³² The Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn were so named because the sun's relationship with these two sectors or signs of the zodiac.

cal movement as it moves around the earth and causes the various seasons. He compares the Lord's absolute immovability in relationship to His redemptive purposes with this almost indiscernible solar movement.

CONCLUSION

The stepbrother of the Lord Jesus Christ, under inspiration, wrote to Christian Jews scattered throughout the Mediterranean basin. As they underwent trials in the form of persecution, some of them concluded that God was tempting them to sin. James effectively dispatched of that false notion by giving at least five reasons that God does not tempt man to sin. These reasons centered on the holy nature of God, the old nature of man, the tendency for man to be deceived, the good nature of God, and the creative nature of God. In developing his arguments, James assumed the truths of biblical cosmology to advance his defense of the Lord's nature and person. These realities in nature include truth about the planets, lights, parallax, and tropics. 1) The planets, as wandering stars, depict apostates who deviate from the truth. 2) The good Lord created the heavenly lights, as great and brilliant as they may be. 3) James implied that the sun's apparent parallax is almost imperceptible, contrasting the absolute immovability of the Lord God with this slight parallactical angle. 4) Finally, to emphasize the Lord's absolute immutability with regard to His promises, James declared that Jehovah did not move or turn, unlike the imperceptible but real seasonal movement of the sun relative to the Tropics. The Lord Jesus Christ created the heavens and earth and then revealed within His Scriptures the full extent that man may know absolutely about the physical phenomena. The creation has built in limitations so that man, neither evolutionist nor creationist can measure accurately and absolutely the heavens, as Jeremiah predicted. All the Christian can know or needs to know is that planets revolve around the sun, the lights are in subjection to God the Father, and the sun has parallax, and it has tropical movement around the earth. The evolutionist can only speculate about the heavens and posit anti-biblical myths. The Christian knows absolutely, "*The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork*" (Ps. 19:1).

BOOK CORNER

The Book Corner

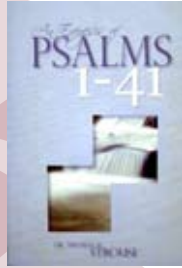
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Quotes from the...

The Book Corner

These Books may be purchased through **Bible Baptist Church:**

40 Country Squire Rd.
Cromwell, CT 06416
860-229-5387



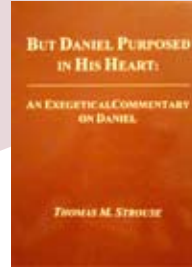
Psalms 1 - 41
\$20.00



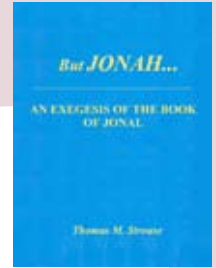
Psalm 119
20.00



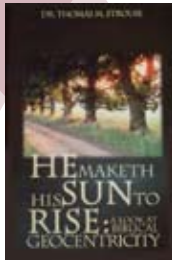
Spiritual Gifts
\$8.00



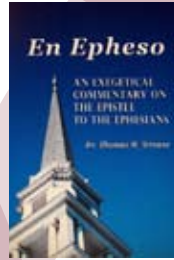
Daniel
\$20.00



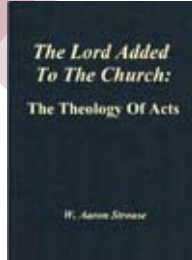
Jonah
\$10.00



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

Quotes From the Past:

Alexander Hamilton 1755-1804

First U.S. Secretary of Treasury



“The fundamental source of all your errors, sophisms and false reasonings is a total ignorance of the natural rights of mankind. Were you once to become acquainted with these, you could never entertain a thought, that all men are not, by nature, entitled to a parity of privileges. You would be convinced, that natural liberty is a gift of the beneficent Creator to the whole human race, and that civil liberty is founded in that; and cannot be wrested from any people, without the most manifest violation of justice.”

Prayer Promises

“My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up” (Psalm 5:3).



“Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth” (Psalm 54:2)

“Let my prayer come before thee: incline thine ear unto my cry” (Psalm 88:2)

“Now therefore, O our God, hear the prayer of thy servant, and his supplications” (Daniel 9:17a).

“And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive” (Matthew 21:22)

“These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication” (Acts 1:14a)

“But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word” (Acts 6:4)

“Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved” (Romans 10:1)

“Ye also helping together by prayer for us” (2 Corinthians 1:11a)

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints” (Ephesians 6:18)

“Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving” (Colossians 4:2)

“ And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him” (James 5:15)

MORE PRAYER PROMISES

BBTS Winter Module Schedule

Ireland

Bibliology I and Daniel
January 3 - 7, 2011

Cromwell, CT

The Gospel of Luke
January 17 - 21, 2011

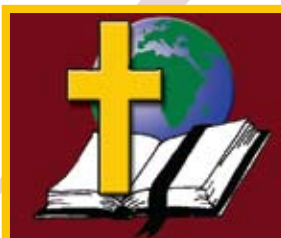
All Classes taught by Dr. T. Strouse

**Bible Baptist Church
and
Bible Baptist
Theological Seminary**
are now On-Line!!

Check us out at
www.bbc-cromwell.org

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