



# BBC UPDATE

## BBTS SPRING LECTURE SERIES



Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

The Lord blessed with beautiful day physically and a wonderful day spiritually on Friday, April 9, 2021. The Eleventh Bible Baptist Theological Seminary Spring Lecture Series was housed in the comfortable Galilean Baptist Church with Pastor and Mrs. Stephen Hinebaugh as gracious hosts. About eighty church members from nine churches (CT, NH, NY, ME, MA, PA) came to hear the lecture presentation on BIBLICAL SOTERIOLOGY: *“I Will Joy in the God of my Salvation”* given by Dr. Thomas M. Strouse. The

Lecture Series was also live-streamed through the technical wherewithal of Mr. Bill Gotwals so that many Bible Baptist Theological Seminary graduates and current seminarians could see the presentation. Seminarians from England, India, Ireland, Philippines, and USA watched the live-streaming. The luncheon was great with the catered main dishes of Chicken Parmesean,



*The Pastors who attended the Lecture Series*

Sausage with Peppers and Onions, and Tortellini along with church members’ salads and desserts. We appreciated the brethren of like faith with whom we can fellowship around the Lord Jesus Christ and His word of truth.



*Yet I will rejoice in the LORD,  
I will joy in the God of my salvation.  
Habakkuk 3:18*

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# APOSTASY

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## INTRODUCTION

The word *apostasia* occurs twice in the NT, translated “forsake” (Acts 21:21) and “a falling away” (II Thes. 2:3). The Greek verb *apostatono* does not appear in the NT but it means “to stand from (the truth)” and anglicized “to apostatize.” Christianity in general and Fundamentalism in specific posit the popular view that the rank liberals who deny the deity of Christ and virgin birth are the only ones who apostatize. However, the contextual use and application of Scripture reveal that “the standing from or turning away from truth” is the characteristic of God’s creation. The LORD created angels during the creation week and immediately afterward perfect Lucifer and a third of the perfect angels apostatized. The Lord GOD created man on the sixth day and immediately after that day perfect Adam and Eve apostatized. God created a perfect creation with perfect creatures to make moral choices and His creation apostatized! Mankind has the adamic nature and the built in proclivity to apostatize. Does the imperfect church member or pastor think that he cannot apostatize?<sup>1</sup> The first step in apostasy is the denial that it could happen to “even me!”

## NEW TESTAMENT APPLICATION

Apparently the NT writers believed that Baptist church members could and would apostatize, and warned churches accordingly. For instance, Paul warned the Ephesian elders that some of their own pastoral staff would apostatize, saying, “*For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them*” (Acts 20:29-30). Later, the Apostle John condemned the apostate elder Diotrephes, perhaps the pastor of the Ephesian church (III Jn. 1:9-11). Peter and Barnabas, pillars of the Jerusalem church, behaved hypocritically concerning eating with Gentiles and received strong renunciation from Paul (Gal. 2:9-14). Hymenaeus and Philetus mocked the resurrection doctrine (II Tim. 2:17-18) and the experienced Demas loved the world and forsook Paul (II Tim. 4:10). Apostasy begins in the heart and manifests with the tongue even with the teaching leaders in the assembly (Jam. 3:1-18), and Paul asserted that sinning with the tongue grieved the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:29-32).

Both Peter and Jude warned their respective congregations about apostasy. With great similarities they warned these Jewish churches about the apostasy beginning with apostate angels, then apostate mankind, then apostate sodomites, and then apostate false teachers and church members potentially in the assemblies (II Pet. 2:1-22; Jude 1:1-25). In fact, Peter advised church members to grow in sanctification by adding spiritual qualities to their lives or become spiritually blind (II Pet. 1:5-9) and return to the vomit of the adamic nature as did Lot (II Pet. 2:22). Interestingly, Peter was one of the ten who was first to be indwelt and regenerated (Jn. 20:22) and

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<sup>1</sup> Stop preaching about the liberal Methodist or Congregational pastor down the street and start looking at your own heart!

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## APOSTASY CONTINUED

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shortly thereafter these regenerated apostles turned from the Lord and His will in their apostasy and went “*a fishing*” (Jn. 21:3). Paul revealed that church members must be filled continually with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18),<sup>2</sup> being led by the Spirit (and not sinning [Rom. 8:14; Gal. 5:18]), and displaying the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23), and not walking in the work of the flesh (Gal. 5:19-21). Being filled with the Spirit is the status of sinless perfection for which life and ministry we will receive rewards (I Cor. 3:11-15). When we walk in the works of the flesh (of the old man) we will receive the loss of rewards. Being filled with the Spirit is true biblical Lordship salvation! Are we in a status of apostasy or perfection!

### CHALLENGE

In the past year of the divine testing of Covid, how did we respond to obeying the precious Lord Jesus Christ? When exceptions are made to obedience, then apostasy has already begun in the heart. It becomes apparent in the Christian landscape of the world and of America many have apostatized, and the downward slide is spiritually tragic. Pompous pastors who give pious platitudes such as “do right until the stars fall” fail their congregations through their condescending approach that we cannot apostatize because we are not theological liberals. We as pastors need to put some teeth in our preaching by actual obedience in trying times. The Lord warned the pastor/angel/star at Ephesus who “*left*” (apostatized) his first love, and demanded that repentance must begin with him (Rev. 2:4-5)! Let us begin to examine our own hearts.

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<sup>2</sup> “*And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God*” (Eph. 5:18-21). The believer may gauge his/her status of Spirit-filled living by examining to see if there is present a joyful heart, a thankful heart, and a submissive heart.

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## BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH ORDINATION COUNCIL & SERVICE

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Brother ***Darrell Nelson***, faithful church member and church song leader, is a biblically qualified man who desires “the office of a bishop” (I Tim. 3:1). On Saturday, April 24, 2021, Bible Baptist Church will conduct the Examination Council to hear his testimony of salvation, of the calling to the office of pastor, of his defense of his spiritual gift, of his biblical and theological knowledge, and of his affirmation of biblical qualifications. The Examination Council is scheduled for 10 AM to Noon and open to all to observe. On Sunday, April 25, 2021, the Ordination Service will commence at 12:30 PM with a message and then the laying on of hands. All are welcome to come.

## PASTOR FIRMAN LEGOWO

I received this email from Dr. Stephen Liauw about one of the Bible Baptist Theological Seminary seminarians who was a pastor in Indonesia:

*“Just want to let you know that Pastor Firman Legowo has just passed away to be with the Lord.*

*He died in hospital because of Covid-19. He was hospitalized starting from the 15th of March, and he had high blood sugar levels, which led to complications.*

*Pastor Firman was a respected preacher and very influential in our biblical movement here in Indonesia, one of our senior graduates and pastor. His preaching style was interesting as he had a knack to combine truth with witty illustrations and insightful applications. He leaves behind his wife and three young daughters, and he will be very much missed.*

*His visit to Bible Baptist Cromwell was an event that he cherished, and deeply impacted him, so I know that you would want to receive this news.*

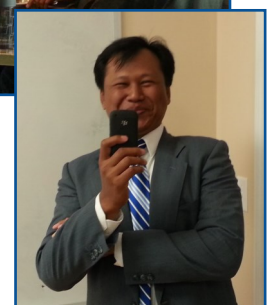
*We look forward to meeting him again in the presence of the blessed Savior, our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

Dr. Steven Liauw, MD, ThD



*Above: Pastor Legowo with his family*

Pastor Firman Legowo, who came to BBC in Cromwell, CT for about a half of a year to study theology and Bible at Bible Baptist Theological Seminary, passed away recently. We were thankful to invest in his life and ministry for the short time he stayed with Prof. Jeff Skorupski in early 2013. He took the biblical teaching back with him to edify his church. He even started ‘Geocentricity Indonesia’ with about 950 members. We will continue to pray for his family and church.



*Some 2013 memories with Pastor Firman Legowo*

## BBTS GRADUATION

Bible Baptist Theological Seminary will conduct the Eleventh Commencement Service on Sunday, May 16, 2021 at 1:00 PM with two men graduating with seminary degrees.

*Mr. Matthew Ryan Strouse* is a candidate for the Master of Divinity degree who finished 96 credit hours of academic work and the 100 page Thesis on the Book of James.

Bible Baptist Theological Seminary *Professor Jeff Skorupski* is a candidate for the Doctor of Ministry degree. Professor Skorupski will defend his 200 page dissertation on the Book of Malachi on Saturday, May 15, 2021 at 10 AM to Noon. All are welcome.



*What did Pastor Strouse do on his 76th birthday? He sawed up some fallen trees on his property and split the wood!*



*We are thankful for Pastor Hinebaugh for opening up his church building for the BBTS Lecture Series on Biblical Soteriology. In addition we are grateful to Bill Gotwals of Community Baptist Church for his live-streaming the Lecture all over the world.*

*Left: The 80+ attendees packed the auditorium. Below: some of the girls have fun during the break.*





Pastor Cas Reeves

## THE LITTLE CONEY

*“The conies are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks.”*

Proverbs 30:26

The coney is a rock-badger that lives in the Middle East. King Solomon, the writer of the book of Proverbs, speaks of the coney, associating them along with the ant, the locust and the spider as examples of being small but wise.

The Scripture reveals that the coney is considered an unclean animal for the Israelites (Leviticus 11:5). It is described as a feeble animal (Proverbs 30:26). Because it lives in the rocks to find their protection, the coney is considered wise.

It is wise for the sinner to study the coney’s characteristics and to consider how the sinner finds himself with similar characteristics as the coney. The sinner is unclean like the coney. The sinner is feeble like the coney. And the sinner needs a rock protection.

The New Testament teaches the Rock is Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 10:4). The sinner’s only hope of eternal protection is the Rock of Christ. Sin brings death, Christ, the Rock, brings life (Romans 6:23). As the coney was wise to hide in the rocks for safety, it is wise for the sinner to hide or trust in the Rock of Christ, who offers the only way to Heaven (John 14:6). -CAR



## QUOTES FROM THE PAST

James Monroe

1758-1831

5th President of the United States

*“The best form of government is that which is most likely to prevent the greatest evil.”*

## BBC/BBTS 2021 SCHEDULE

**April 24-25**

BBC Ordination Council  
and Service

**May 15**

Dissertation Defense

**May 16**

BBTS Commencement

**June 7-11**

Community Baptist Church,  
Coopersburg, PA  
*Ezra & Nehemiah*

**Jul 26-30, 2021**

Calvary Independent Baptist  
Church, Plymouth, NH  
*The Gospel of Luke and Medical  
Terms*

**August 23-27**

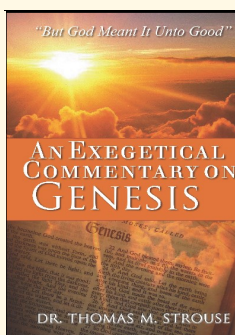
Fairhaven Baptist College  
TBA

## THE BOOK CORNER

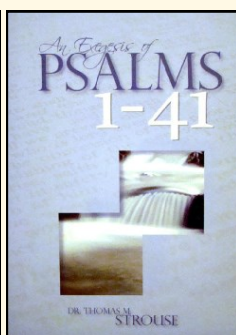
These books may be purchased through

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

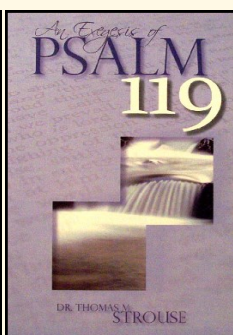
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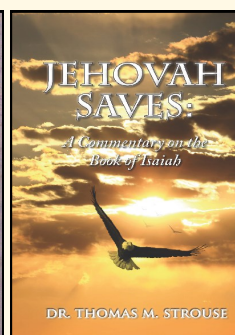
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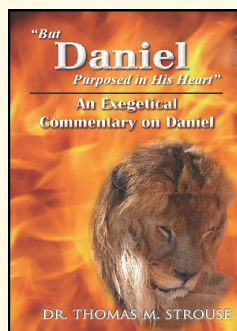
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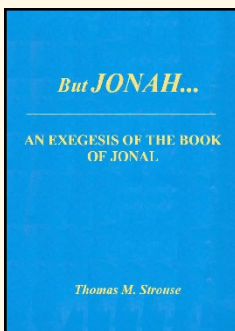
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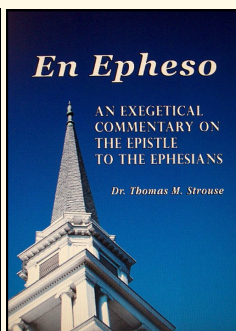
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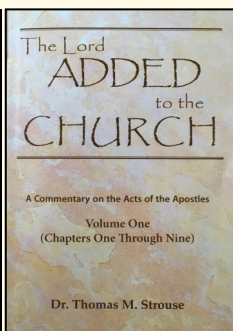
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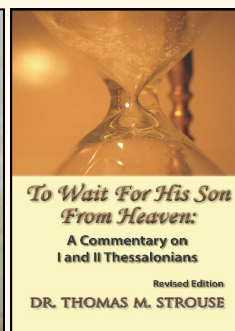
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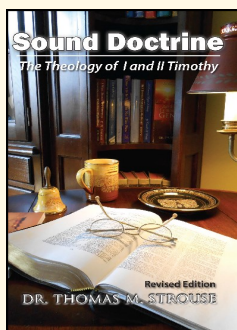
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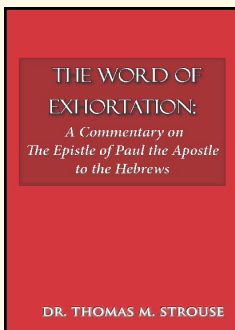
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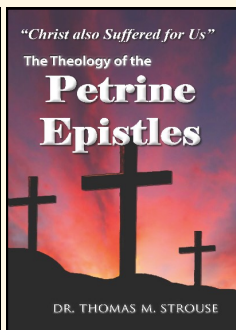
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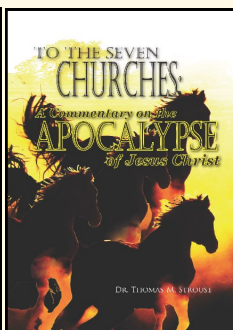
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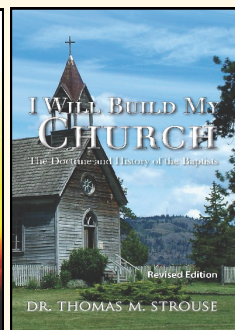
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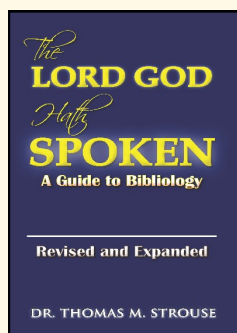
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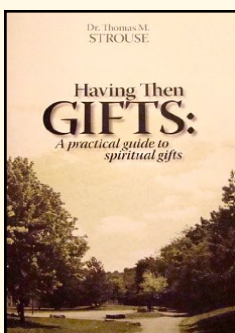
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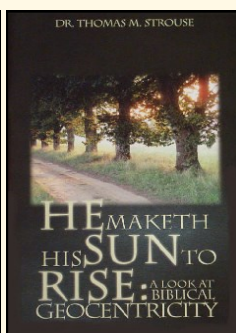
Baptist Doctrine & History  
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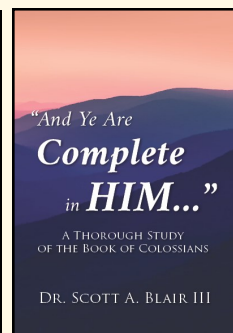
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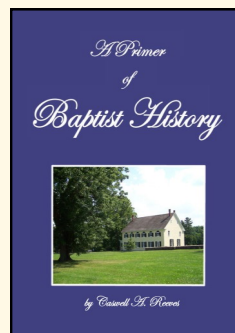
Spiritual Gifts  
\$8.00



Geocentricity  
\$10.00



Colossians  
\$20.00



Baptist History  
\$20.00

If you have any news for the next issue of the BBC Update, please send an email to: drtms\_bbts@juno.com



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