



BBC UPDATE



Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

ARE YOU RAPTURE READY?

The Two Comings of Christ

The Bible teaches the Two Comings of the Lord Jesus Christ. Concerning His First Coming as “*God was manifest in the flesh*” (I Tim. 3:16), the Old Testament predicted that the Person in the Seed Promise (Gen. 3:15) would come for the salvation of all mankind (Isa. 49:6) through the Virgin Birth (Isa. 7:14) in Bethlehem (Mic. 5:2) during the 1st Century (Dan. 9:24-27). The Lord Jesus Christ fulfilled these prophecies and provided salvation for all (Lk. 2:14), as Scripture states, saying, “*For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe*” (I Tim. 4:10) and “*And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world*” (I Jn. 2:2). He came the first time and the Lord promised to come again as Scripture states, saying, “*So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation*” (Heb. 9:28). He promised His apostles, saying, “*Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*” (Jn. 14:1-3).

According to Scripture, four events were required before the Second Coming. The first two were the death of the Messiah (c. AD 30) and the destruction of the Zerubbabel-Herod Temple (AD 70) according to Daniel’s prophecy (Dan. 9:26). The Lord Jesus predicted the death of Peter (Jn. 21:18-19) and required the completion of the New Testament Canon of Scripture (Mk. 16:17-20; I Cor. 13:8-12) as the two other events. These four requirements have been fulfilled and now the precious Lord Jesus Christ can come at anytime! There are NO SIGNS for the RAPTURE! James averred, saying, “*Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh*” (Jam. 5:8) and Paul proclaimed, saying, “*For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself*” (Phil. 3:20-21).

The Second Coming of Christ is called the “**Rapture.**” The English word “Rapture” comes from the Latin *Rapio* which means “to catch away.” The term is based on the exegesis of Paul’s clear doctrinal statement, saying, “*But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up (Raptured) together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words*” (I Thess. 4:13-18). The Lord has promised church

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age saints of their escape from the Tribulation, saying, “*Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.*” ¹¹ *Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown*” (Rev. 3:10-11).

The Rapture, which is imminent, will trigger the Tribulation (Dan. 9:27; II Thes. 2:3-12), wherein the LORD will judge the unsaved who were not caught up with the born-again saints, pouring increased plagues upon the earth (Rev. 6:1-8), and He will scorch the earth (Rev. 16:8-9). The Antichrist will initially enter into a covenant with the Jews but will break it in the midst of the seven year Tribulation (Dan. 9:27; Rev. 6:1-2). The Lord Jesus Christ will pour out Seven Seal Judgments which will destroy one fourth of mankind (Rev. 6:1-8:5), and then Seven Trumpet Judgments (Rev. 8:6-14:20), and finally Seven Vial Judgments (Rev. 15:1-16:21). Many will be converted to Christ but will be martyred. Few will survive the Tribulation, and only believers in the Lord Jesus Christ will be allowed into the Millennium. The unsaved will die in their sins and go to hell and eventually be thrown into the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:10-15). The Apostle Paul described the direction of this world and the divine need to destroy all unrepentant sinners, saying, “*This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away*” (II Tim. 3:1-5).

Spiritual Readiness

How does one become ready for the Rapture? Here are biblical truths that give great clarity for one to be ready to meet the Lord Jesus Christ in death or in the Rapture.

1. Recognize that you are one of the elect for whom Christ died and are written in the Book of Life, as all of mankind. Sinful man remains in the Book of Life until he dies unrepentant! Then he is blotted out. The old nature of man does not send people or babies to hell but the unrepentant sin that confirms the old nature sends sinners to hell.

- a. “*Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written. And the LORD said unto Moses, **Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book***” (Ex. 32:32-33)
- b. “*Let them **be blotted out of the book** of the living, and **not be written** with the righteous*” (Ps. 69:28).
- c. “*He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and **I will not blot out** his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels*” (Rev. 3:5).
- d. “*And whosoever was **not found written in the book of life** was cast into the lake of fire*” (Rev. 20:15).

2. Realize that the elect must obtain salvation, as Paul said, “*Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that **they may also obtain the salvation** which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory*” (II Tim. 2:10). How do you “obtain” salvation? > Repentance and Faith!

- a. You must have a “*born again*” experience, as Jesus said, “*Ye must be **born again***” (Jn. 3:7).
- b. This requires that you recognize that you are a sinner: “*for **all have sinned** and come short of the glory of God*” (Rom. 3:23).
- c. You must repent of your sins as Scripture demands, saying, “***Repent ye therefore, and be converted**, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord*” (Acts 3:19). Also, the Lord said, “*I tell you, Nay: but, **except ye repent**, ye*

shall all likewise perish” (Lk. 13:3, 5). Peter declared, saying, “*The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance*” (II Pet. 3:9).

- d. As you turn from your sins in repentance, you must believe on the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, as the Lord demanded, saying, “*repent ye, and believe the gospel*” (Mk. 1:15). Also, the Apostle Paul summarized the readiness for the Rapture, saying, “*For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come*” (I Thes. 1:9-10). Also, Paul said, “*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved*” (Acts 16:31).
- e. Peter encouraged believers, saying, “*Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall*” (II Pet. 1:10). How do you do this? Have you had the “born again” experience of repentance from sin and faith in Christ? Since then have you a changed life with Christian fruit (i.e., works)? “*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new*” (II Cor. 5:17) and “*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them*” (Eph. 2:8-10) and “*Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone*” (Jam. 2:17).

3. Your assurance of salvation and readiness for the Rapture comes as the Spirit of God Who indwells you speaks through the Word of God.

- a. “*And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God*” (I Jn. 5:11-13).
- b. “*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God*” (Rom. 10:17).
- c. “*But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him*” (I Jn. 2:27).

Appeal

The Bible urges biblical salvation immediately, saying, “*But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end; While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation*” (Heb. 3:13-15).

“*Lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh*” (Lk. 21:28)

BBC

Labor Day Cookout

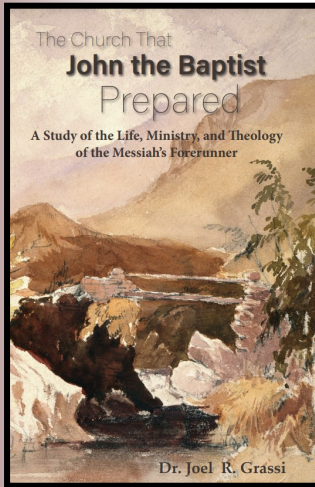
BBTS

Monday, September 6, 2021
 2-7 PM
 Please RSVP by September 1, 2021 to
 drtms_bbts@juno.com
 indicating name and number of people.
 (A-L side dishes, M-Z desserts)

STROUSE HOUSE
 164 HICKORY HILL RD.
 NEW BRITAIN, CT 06052

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH COMMENTARIES

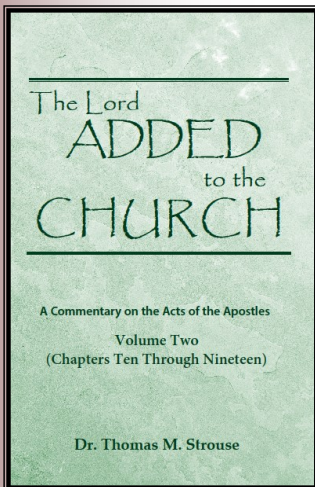
Bible Baptist Church practices exegetical preaching through the OT and NT books. Exegetical preaching begets exegetical commentaries! Some new exegetical books will be available in August, 2021, including the following:



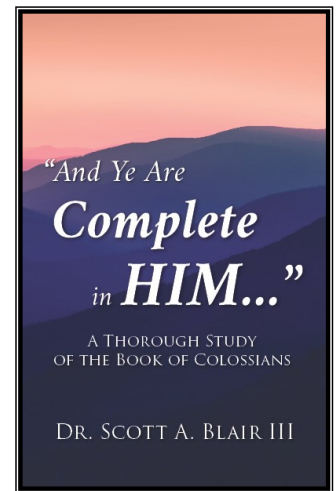
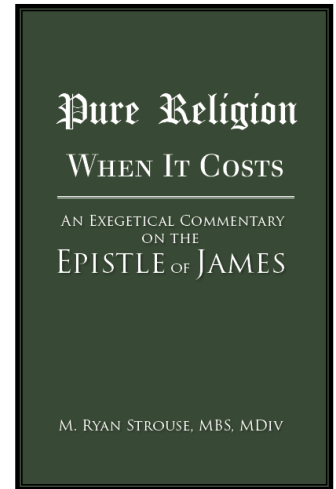
1. Dr. Joel Grassi. *The Church that John the Baptist Prepared*, 950 pages. \$35.00.

2. M. Ryan Strouse. *Pure Religion when it Costs. An Exegetical Study of the Epistle of James* (summer, 2021), 650 pages. \$30.00.

3. Dr. Thomas M. Strouse. *The Lord Added to the Church. A Commentary on the Acts of the Apostles, Volume Two* (Chapters Ten Through Nineteen), 677 pages, \$40.00.



4. Also now available: Dr. Scott A. Blair III, “*And Ye Are Complete in Him...*” *A Thorough Study of the Book of Colossians* (2021), 292 pages. \$20.00.



Instead of much of the common fare that gives topical studies, sometimes out of context, and ends up with devotional fluff, these are serious works that examine the passages of the KJV and give the intended meaning for hungry students of the Word.



Bible Baptist Church of Middletown, ID has moved location and now is Bible Baptist Church of White Bluff, TN, under the oversight of **Pastor Jerry Akers** with his wife Mrs. Lori Akers. This godly couple followed the pattern set by Aquila and Priscilla (Acts 18:2) and moved their house church to a more advantageous location in the will of God. We are thankful for their dedication to the Lord and we continue to pray for them.

BBTS 2021 FALL SEMESTER

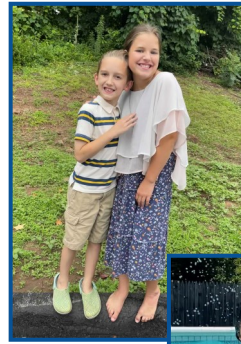
Bible Baptist Theological Seminary classes will begin on August 30, 2021 with Dr. Thomas Strouse teaching:

Monday 9AM to Noon

Greek III

Thursday 6-9 PM

I Corinthians



Summer Fun

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2021

**“For we walk by faith,
not by sight”**

Bible Baptist Church is looking forward to the annual Vacation Bible School which is scheduled for Thursday and Friday, August 26-27 from 6-9 pm and Saturday August 28th from 9am-Noon. The theme this year will be II Corinthians 5:7 **“For we walk by faith, not by sight”**. There will be a Bible lesson, games, crafts, snacks, and testimonials from various church members each day. For more information contact Ryan Strouse at mrstrouse@gmail.com.

BBC/BBTS 2021 SCHEDULE

August 23-27

Fairhaven Baptist College
Apologetics

September 6

Strouse House
Labor Day Cookout

October 24-27

Timeless Truth Bible Conference
Willow Creek Baptist Church
Waynesburg, PA
TBA

August 26-28

Vacation Bible School
BBC-Cromwell
Faith vs. Sight

September 20-24

Bible Baptist Church,
Nashua, NH
*Defense of alleged errors in
KJV*

November 5

BBTS Fall Lecture Series
Galilean Baptist Church
TBA

August 30

BBTS
Fall Semester Begins



Pastor Cas Reeves

AN ADVENTURE WITH THE LORD

“And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church. And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons, Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews: And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house, Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Acts 20:17-21)

The Apostle Paul’s life was a daily adventure with the Lord. I trust your life; likewise, has been an adventure with the Lord since you were saved. I know that my life certainly has been adventurous. Jesus said, *“I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly”* (John 10:10). Some times I think to myself, if it gets any more abundant, I don’t know how I will be able to handle it. Yet, the answer is always the same, *“the Lord.”* (Philippians 4:13).

I have been calling in a church visitation program in one church or another for over 50 years. That is as long as I’ve been saved. It is one of the greatest privileges of service that God has given to us. As in most things that are faith based there is scariness. In Proverbs 29:25, we are told that *the fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.* I think *“door to door”* visiting is a scary thing to do, but if we trust the Lord, we can do it and be safe. As well, it is rewarding because you are obeying God and carrying out the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19-20. Not only rewarding, but also it is adventurous with many interesting things that happen.

While calling some time back, two interesting things happened while out on visitation/calling. The first, my small and youthful calling partner Tim and I were coming out of an apartment building when he spied a penny on the ground and claimed it. At that moment I took the opportunity to say, *“see, calling does pay!”* Our life is full of teachable moments that make great impressions upon pupils. The second moment of interest was again on a calling night; my partner and I walked up to a door and pushed the doorbell. Immediately, two big dogs began to bark. Because of the dogs the man of the house was only able to crack the door and take the tract as I slid it through that small crack. Unfortunately, we had very little conversation. As my partner and I walked away, he said to me, *“Did you hear what was going on there?”* I said, *“yes – barking dogs.”* He said, *“Did you hear why they were barking?”* I said, *“No!”* My partner then said, *“Because the doorbell was ringing the whole time. It never stopped ringing from the time you pushed it.”* That was a first for me in all my years of calling and visiting – sticky doorbell.

You know when you get saved your life becomes a great adventure with the Lord. Joshua of old was promised this as he entered the Promised Land: *“For the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest”* (Joshua 1:9). And you and I are promised this when the Lord gave the Great Commission: *“Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world”* (Matthew 28:20). Are you experiencing and enjoying the adventure? -CAR



James MADISON

1751-1836

4th President of the USA

QUOTES FROM THE PAST

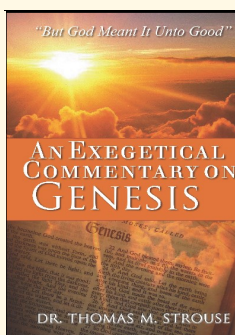
“No distinction seems to be more obvious than that between spiritual and temporal matters. Yet whenever they have been made objects of Legislation, they have clashed and contended with each other, till one or the other has gained the supremacy.”

THE BOOK CORNER

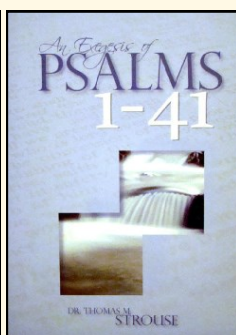
These books may be purchased through

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

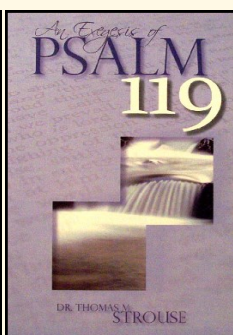
drtms_bbts@juno.com



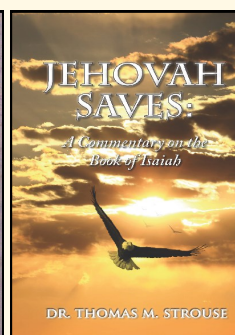
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\$20.00



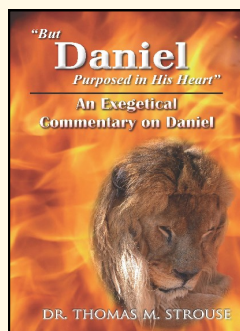
Psalms 1-41
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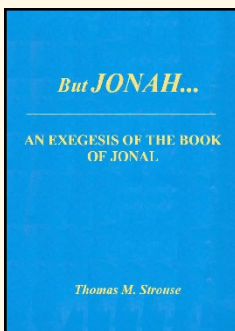
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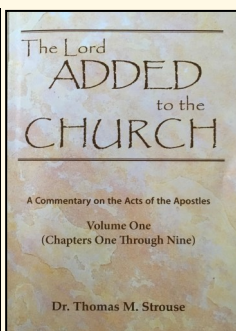
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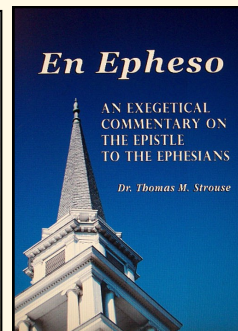
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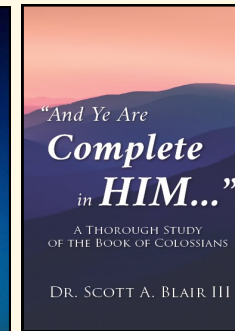
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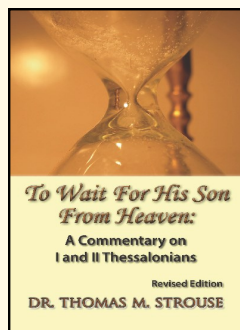
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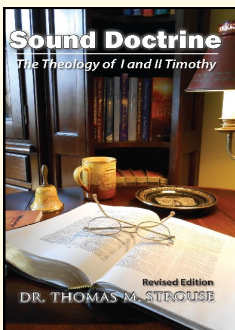
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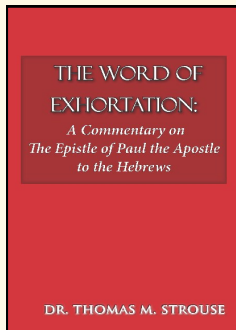
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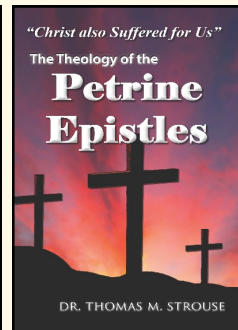
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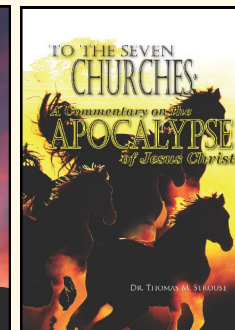
1 & 2 Timothy
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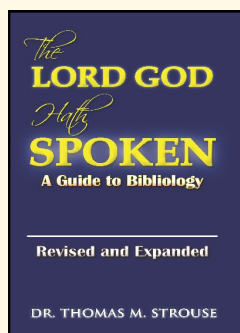
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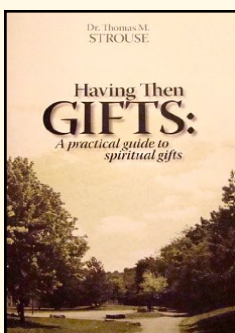
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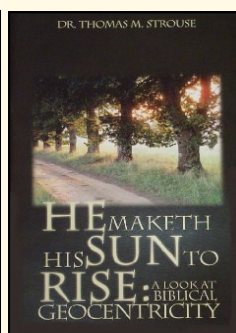
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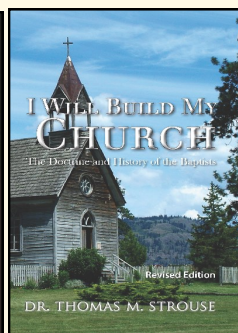
Bibliology
\$15.00



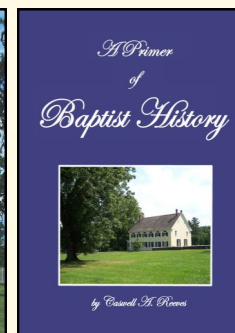
Spiritual Gifts
\$8.00



Geocentricity
\$10.00

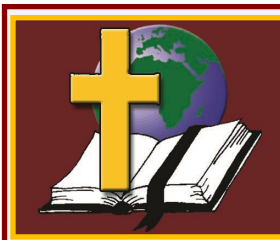
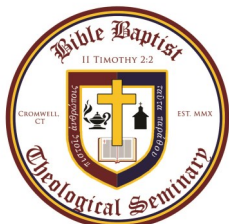


Baptist Doctrine & History
\$15.00



Baptist History
\$20.00

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