



# BBC UPDATE



Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

## BBC/BBTS LABOR DAY COOKOUT

The Lord blessed with beautiful a day for the annual Bible Baptist Church/ Bible Baptist Theological Seminary Labor Day Cookout on September 7, 2020 at the Strouse House. Pastors and members from at least six sister churches were in attendance, coming from not only CT, but also from NY, PA, and MA. The food was abundant and the fellowship rich as saints focused on salvation testimonies and an engaging game of croquet. The chief grill master, seminarian Rich Robert, brought a special guest to help with the grilling.



*We had special guest as Grill-Master!*



## BIBLE BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY FALL SEMESTER

Seminary classes of Bible Baptist Theological Seminary began with Ezra-Nehemiah and Hebrew I as the offerings, which are available online through [www.bbc-cromwell.org](http://www.bbc-cromwell.org).



*Ezra-Nehemiah Class*

## NEW HAMPSHIRE MODULE



Pastor Steve Bates of Bible Baptist Church in Nashua, NH hosted the Bible Baptist Theological Seminary module on Bibliology during the week of September 14-18, 2020, as Dr. Thomas Strouse dealt with the doctrine of Scripture, giving lecture notes and handouts from over fifty years of being in the battle for defense of the Bible, and specifically for the Hebrew and Greek texts of the KJV. The module was well attended both in person and via ZOOM.



*Pastor Hinebaugh shows his girls the best strategy.*



# The Strouse House Labor Day Cookout

*Above: The "referees" overlook the croquet game.*



*Right: There were plenty of obstacles for the players to avoid throughout the course.*



*Below: Even Preston isn't too young to learn how to play!*



*Dave Stebbins gives Ryan some advice.*



*Everyone enjoyed the food and fellowship.*





M. Ryan Strouse

## WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH YOUR SHAME? PART ONE

### Introduction

The Lord declared in Luke 9:62, “*No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.*” The cost of obedience became too high for the three disciples who knowingly disobeyed the Lord and forsook Him for the temporal demands of life (Luke 9:62, 14:25-35). In the COVID-19 pandemic, many have rationalized disobedience towards assembling with the LORD to worship in spirit and in truth. Assembling has always been integral for the disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord raises attention on the disciple that gazes back on the life of sight and entangles himself with its affairs. These serious questions should be answered by pastors and church members: How many believers have grown in the absence of church attendance? How many believers have been pulled back into sin by the beggarly elements in the absence of meeting with the LORD? Many believers may think shame only follows the flagrant sins of immorality and the likes thereof; however, scripture reveals and Peter demonstrated that shame comes even to spiritual leaders that knowingly choose the temporal over the eternal.

### Shame

Disobedience, sin, and forsaking the Lord all bring the Lord’s just judgment and consequences into the believer’s life (Ps.51:4). As seen throughout Scripture, sorrow and shame accompany the consequences of sin, and they both can linger and nag at the heart continuously (Ps.32:3-4). Specifically, shame is the derision and humiliation one feels for choosing the temporal over the spiritual, which comes from grieving the Holy Spirit of God that seals the believer (Eph.4:30). A biblical review reveals that shame is a tool used by God to bring humility and repentance; however, it is twisted by the accuser of the brethren to enslave and paralyze the believer in shame, and ultimately to terminate the believer from the spiritual race. Unfortunately, Satan has roared and intimidated many from seeing the restorative mercy of the Lord, which intimidation has knocked the strongest of believers out of the race. Believers can see this happen to others, and must consider that it could happen to them; furthermore, many can helplessly watch others awkwardly slink out of sight from shame. This presents questions for the observer and the ashamed: How does one biblically approach one in such a state? What will believers do with their shame?

### Peter’s Shame

In your shame, Satan seeks to capitalize on your spiritual failure; he now wants to take you completely out of the spiritual race. As seen in the Gospels, Peter boldly vowed to serve the Lord (Mt.26:35, Mk.14:31), and broke his vow to the Lord and denied the Lord when the cost became too high (Mt.26:69-75). Luke 22:61-62 captures the powerful picture of Peter’s shame, “*And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.*” Peter remembered and knew exactly how he failed the Lord by the simple look from his Savior, which triggered the bitter sorrow and shame.

The next events in Scripture seem to highlight the internal struggle of Peter and his shame. Peter would go off the scene in Scripture through the Lord’s death and burial until he received news of the resurrection. John 20:4 records, “*So they ran both together: and that other disciple, and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulcher;*” John highlights that he outran Peter to the empty tomb, which highlights his love and excitement. Seemingly, Peter may have slowed down in preparation for meeting the risen Savior he had just denied; nevertheless, the Lord was not there and Luke 24:12 records Peter’s action and thoughts, “*Then arose Peter, and ran unto the sepulcher; and stooping down, he beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves, and departed, wondering in himself at the which was come to pass.*” Luke highlights that Peter arose,

presumably from the despair and lethargy of shame. John 20:10 indicates that after Peter viewed the empty tomb, “*The disciples went away again unto their own home.*” As well, Luke highlights that Peter was wondering (*thaumazo* – wonder, marvel) at the powerful resurrection of the Master he followed for three years and recently denied three times. John 20:19-23 records the first encounter post-denial that Peter had with the Lord; the Lord would appear unto ten of the twelve apostles, less Thomas and Judas, and breathe into them the promised Comforter before the day of Pentecost (Ezk.36:26, Jn.7:39, Jn.14:16). Despite receiving the promised indwelling of the Holy Spirit, John 21 records the power and continuance of Peter’s shame to return to a life of fishing. Satan sought to capitalize on Peter’s failure to convince him that he was so far gone that he could not possibly continue to serve the Lord, and got him to return to fishing. After all, Christ revealed to Peter that as the leader of the Apostles, “*Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat*” (Lk.22:31). How often does Satan follow this pattern for Christians, and especially for men of surrendered service? All too often Satan knocks believers down, and strangles them with shame to convince them they cannot return to serving the Lord.

Praise God that He has power to restore believers through His mercy and grace, but not until he channels the sorrow and shame of spiritual failure into a humble heart that listens closer and better to the simplicity of the Word of God. The Lord’s approach to Peter in John 21 is that approach each believer needs to consider and follow if the opportunity comes to encourage and restore a wandering sheep. The Lord showed His persistence in seeking to restore. Scripture is silent on any interaction between the Lord and Peter during their first meeting post-denial, maybe because Peter was too ashamed to make eye contact again; nevertheless, the Lord showed up again on the shore of Galilee to perform a familiar miracle that signaled to Peter that it was the Lord (Jn.21:5-7, Lk. 5:4-7). Peter understood the miracle as an invitation to restoration, which prompted naked<sup>1</sup> Peter to grab a coat and jump into the sea to swim to Christ! The Lord had a warm meal prepared to feed the physical needs followed by the spiritual needs. The result is that Peter realized and declared he could only love the Lord with the lesser *phileo* (Philadelphia love), when the Lord asked him if he loved Him with the ultimate *agapao* (Agape love). In Luke 22:32, Peter was converted<sup>2</sup> in his sanctification, just as the Lord had predicted. He had been restored back to ministry to be the humble leader that the Lord had been molding.

The example of Peter highlights how Satan sought to paralyze and strangle Peter with the shame of his failure. Contrary to Satan, the Lord uses judgment, consequence, sorrow, and shame to bring repentance back to Him, who will subsequently restore with great mercy and grace. The purpose of shame is not for perpetual judgment or endless and unavailing pain, but to bring one low to the point of repentance and turning to the Lord. The LORD highlights this point in Joel 2:12-13, “*Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye [even] to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he [is] gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.*” The LORD brought the devastating locust invasion to the land that prefigured the Day of the LORD, which crippled the agricultural society. The judgment brought howling, fasting, weeping, mourning, rending of garments, and shame (Joel 1:1-7). The LORD was not interested in sorrow and shame that was perpetual and did not bring change to the heart. He wanted hearts that were torn from sin, and that turned to the LORD; He is not satisfied with sorrow and shame that wallow in the loss of things that bring sin or that keep a believer from the House of God.

<sup>1</sup>Nakedness can be a symbol of shame. Genesis 3:7 reveals that post-fall nakedness brought shame. Genesis 9:23 reveals the reality that Noah was naked in his drunken stupor. The prophets used the metaphor of nakedness to describe judgment and shame (Isaiah 20:2-4, Ezk.16:8-22, Micah 1:11).

<sup>2</sup>Luke 22:31 uses the Greek word *epistrepho* in the context of sanctification, not salvation. Typically, this word is used in regards to salvation conversion; however, James and Luke both use in relation to converting the wandering believer back to truth (cf. James 5:19-20).



Pastor Cas Reeves

When the Lord uses the word “abomination,” He is referring to something or someone, which is disgusting or sickening, an abhorrence to the character of godliness. An abomination is the description God gives to a proud and haughty person.

As Christians, we are told: *“The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogance, and the evil way, and the froward (or unruly) mouth, do I hate”* (Proverbs 8:13). If God hates pride, then if we fear the Lord, we will hate pride. We understand, *“the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom”* (Proverbs 9:10). And with this wisdom we learn two things that pride brings. First, *“when pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom”* (Proverbs 11:2). And second, *“only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom”* (Proverbs 13:10).

God warns us and exhorts us against being proud in heart. He encourages us to be humble in spirit and to live in the wisdom of His

## ABOMINABLE PRIDE

*“Everyone that is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord.” Proverbs 16:5*

words. *“In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride: but the lips of the wise shall preserve them”* (Proverbs 14:3). Jesus said, *“that which cometh out of man, that defileth man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, murders, deceit, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man”* (Mark 7:20-23). Pride is a terrible thing and every one of us needs to turn to God for His help to overcome it (Philippians 4:13).

Finally we are told that abominable pride is destructive. *“Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall”* (Proverbs 16:18). If God says it, then we can believe it. This kind of pride will bring us down. *“A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit”* (Proverbs 29:23). Many have died and gone to hell because they let pride stand between them and the Savior, Jesus Christ. Today turn to Christ for strength and salvation, for in Him is victory (Rom:8:37): *“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.”* –CAR



*Sophia and Bobbie share the same taste in colors!*

### Quotes from the Past



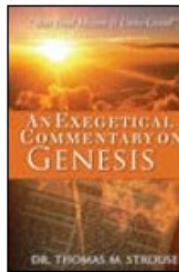
*“Religious matters are to be separated from the jurisdiction of the state, not because they are beneath the interests of the state but, quite to the contrary, because they are too high and holy and thus are beyond the competence of the state.”*

Isaac Backus 1727-1806\*

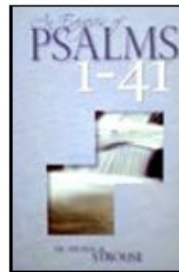
Colonial Baptist Preacher from New England

# THE BOOK CORNER

These books may be purchased through Bible Baptist Church:  
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 Cromwell, CT 06416  
 860-229-5387  
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Genesis  
\$20.00



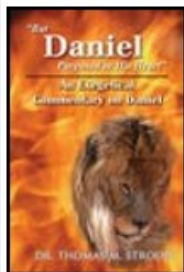
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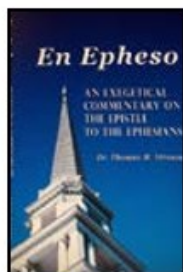
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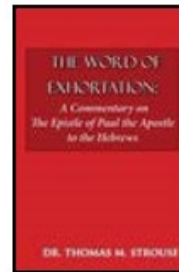
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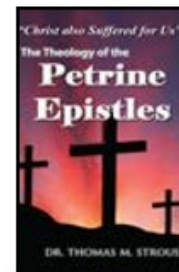
Thessalonians  
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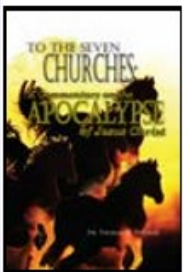
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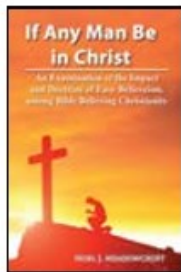
Hebrews  
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Peter  
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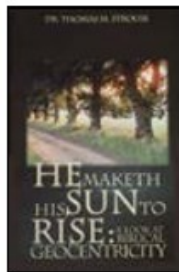
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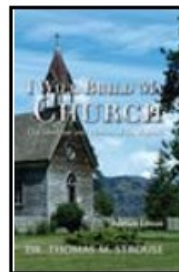
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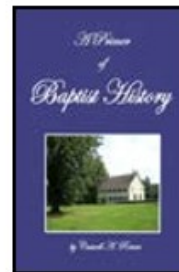
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## BBC 2020 SCHEDULE

September 14-18  
 BBC of Nashua, NH  
 "Bibliology"

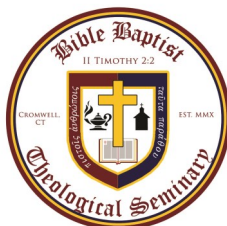
October 25-28  
 Willow Grove Baptist Church  
 "Timeless Truths Bible Conference"

November 13  
 BBTS Fall Lecture Series



Visiting Jew from Israel was able to share some shekels with the children during his recent visit.

If you have any news for the next issue of the BBC Update, please send and email to:  
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