



BBC UPDATE



Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

NEW BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH BOOKS

Bible Baptist Church has had the privilege to produce three new books recently. Dr. Thomas Strouse has completed the second volume of his three-volume set on the *Book of Acts* entitled *The Lord Added to the Church. A Commentary on the Acts of the Apostles* (Chapters Ten through Nineteen [676 pages]). Mr. M. Ryan Strouse wrote *Pure Religion when it Costs. An Exegetical Commentary on the Epistle of James* (664 pages). Dr. Joel Grassi finished his ThD dissertation and put it into book form entitled *The Church that John the Baptist Prepared. A Study of the Life, Ministry, and Theology of the Messiah's Forerunner*. The following is the **Foreword** to Dr. Grassi's 841 page literary work.

Foreword

One would think that there would be enumerable volumes and articles written on the greatest man who ever lived. Literature should be replete worldwide and throughout the centuries concerning the person, qualities, and endeavors of the one worthy of this supreme title. Who is this individual and what is the nature of his greatness? Of course, Bible believers know that the God-Man Jesus Christ asserted the truth of this superlative claim and posited the title upon none other than John the Baptist. The precious Lord Jesus averred, saying, "*Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he*" (Mt. 11:11). The only one greater than John, born of woman, is the virgin-born Lord Jesus Christ Who came after John (Mt. 3:11) and was greater (Mt. 12:6, 41, 42).

Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 3:1

There may be several reasons for the literary dearth on this greatest man, primarily because of his name, his position, and his ministry. First, the title "Baptist" is the greatest biblical title because it identifies the saved sinner with the Lord Jesus as the Christ (Mt. 3:3), having confessed sins, repented (Mt. 3:6, 8), and believed on Jesus as the Lamb of God (Jn. 1:29, 36). Moreover, the title "Baptist" makes many uncomfortable because to them it sounds so "denominational"! Among Christian religionists, the name "Baptist" is highly offensive! Roman Catholics and Protestants, including Lutherans, Anglicans, and Presbyterians, recognized historically that their

theological opponents were the "Anabaptists" (re-baptizers) whose name was shortened to "Baptist," and who consistently demanded believer's immersion. What would one call a devotee of Luther? A Lutheran! What would one call devotee of Calvin? A Calvinist! What would one call

FOREWARD TO JOHN THE BAPTIST BOOK

Continued from page 1

a follower who identified with John's baptism? A Baptist! The Lord Jesus received John's baptism and subsequently received the blessing of the Father as He became Jesus the Baptist (Mt. 3:14-17)! The initial Christian movement was Baptist (Mt. 3:5-6).

Second, John the Baptist had the greatest position as the forerunner to the Messiah. He was prophesied in Isaiah 40:3-4 and in Malachi 3:1 and he inaugurated the Christian Era (Mk. 1:2-3). Just as there is only one Messiah, there was only one forerunner to the Messiah. The greatest messenger of *the Great* Messiah was John the Baptist.

Third, John the Baptist had the greatest ministry with regard to his baptism. Since there was no antecedent to baptism in the *Tanak*, he initiated that which the Saviour declared was required for all Christians—believer's immersion. After all, the Lord asserted, saying, "*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned*" (Mk. 16:16). Moreover, the Lord asserted obliquely that John's baptism was from heaven (Lk. 20:4). Although denominationalists have desired to relegate the ministry and baptism of John to the Old Testament, Scripture is clear that he inaugurated the New Testament Era (Lk. 16:16). If John were an Old Testament prophet, then his baptism by immersion subsequent to salvation would be invalid for Christian churches. Nevertheless, the Lord Jesus Christ is the author and finisher of the Christian faith (Heb. 12:2), and He certainly did not have an "Old Testament baptism"!

It is with great pleasure to announce that after much prayer and encouragement the Doctoral Dissertation of Dr. Joel R. Grassi is now made available in printed book form. Dr. Grassi has produced a voluminous work on the greatest man who ever lived and has named it *The Church that John the Baptist Prepared*. The organization of the book follows the words of Mt. 3:1-2a made into Four Sections: I. "In Those Days;" II. "Came John the Baptist;" III. "Preaching in the Wilderness of Judaea;" and IV. "And Saying." Within these Four Sections are twenty-three chapters with 841 pages and 1531 footnotes. As Pastor of Bible Baptist Church and Dean of Bible Baptist Theological Seminary, I rejoice along with our church membership and current and former seminarians about the privilege of being involved in the facilitating and financing of the printing of this biblically important volume. Those who want to study the life and ministry of the greatest man who ever lived (except for Jesus of Nazareth) will find that this book is rich and thorough in honoring the man that the Saviour honored. I believe this will be an invaluable addition to the library of all truth seekers.

Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

September, 2021

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

BBC VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

II Corinthians 5:7 *“For we walk by faith, not by sight”* was the theme this year for Vacation Bible School, which was held on August 26-28. The three day event was attended by 9 children, ages 3-12. Each day Mrs. Kirsten Gagnon presented a Bible lesson, giving examples of people who walked by faith, and the consequences of those who walked by sight. Mr. Ryan Strouse ended each day with a salvation message from Ephesians 2:8. Theme related crafts were assisted by Miss Sophia Gagnon, and nutritious snacks were provided by Mrs. Christy Strouse.



Craft time



VBS CONTINUED



Outdoor Games



Indoor Games



Bill Gagnon instructs the children in their favorite game of Shark Attack



Goliath is Hungry was another popular game



Bible time



Snack time



Sometimes losing can be a good thing... when candy is given out!

BBTS MODULE AT FAIRHAVEN BAPTIST COLLEGE



Dr. Thomas M. Strouse taught the Bible Baptist Theological Seminary module *Apologetics* at Fairhaven Baptist College during the week of August 23-27, 2021. The college is under the *aegis* of Fairhaven Baptist Church in Chesterton, IN. The class was attended by some of the recent graduates of Bible Baptist Theological Seminary who are now teaching the young college men and women the Bible and biblical doctrines in the Bible College.

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



BBC/BBTS 2021 SCHEDULE

August 30
BBTS
Fall Semester Begins

September 6
Labor Day Cookout
Strouse House

September 20-24
Bible Baptist Church
Nashua, NH
Defense of alleged errors in KJV

October 24-27
Timeless Truth Bible Conference
Willow Creek Baptist Church
Waynesburg, PA
The Book of Joel

November 5
BBTS Fall Lecture Series
Galilean Baptist Church
TBA



Pastor Cas Reeves

PSALM 100 - A PSALM OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP

1: Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.

2: Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

3: Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

4: Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

5: For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

What We Need to Know

3: Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

What We Need to Do

1: Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.

2: Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

4: Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

What We Need to Understand

5: For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

-CAR



QUOTES FROM THE PAST

Nathan HALE

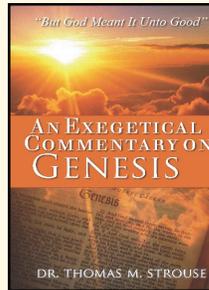
1755-1776

American Patriot

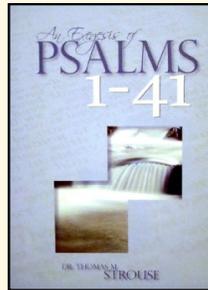
*"I only regret that I have
but one life to lose for my
country."*

THE BOOK CORNER

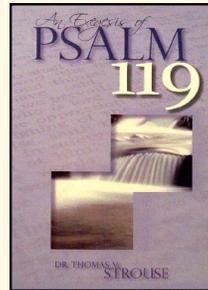
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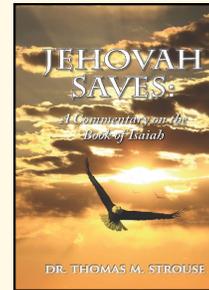
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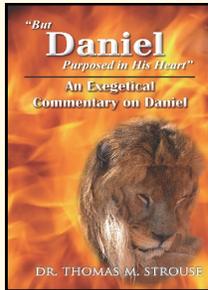
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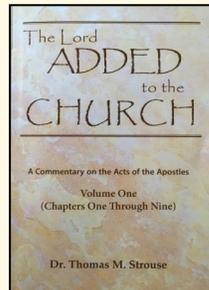
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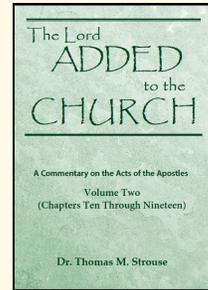
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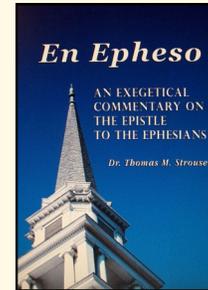
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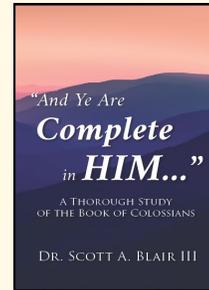
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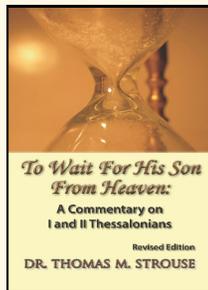
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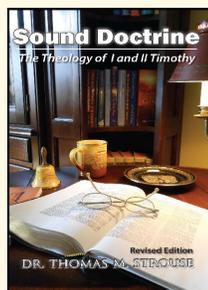
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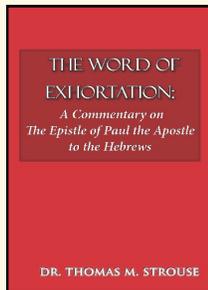
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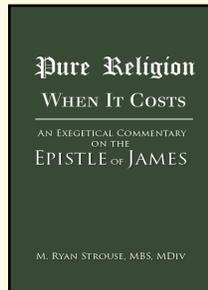
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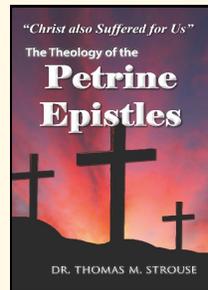
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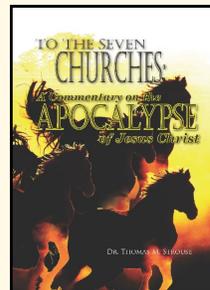
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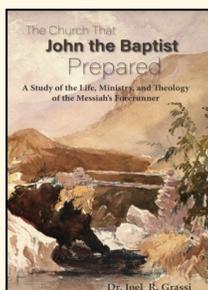
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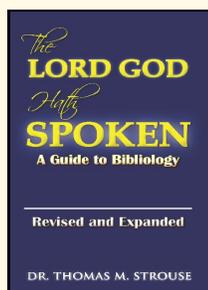
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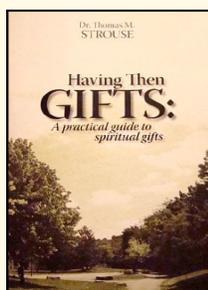
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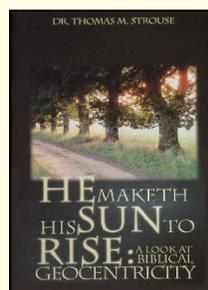
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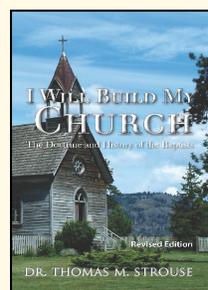
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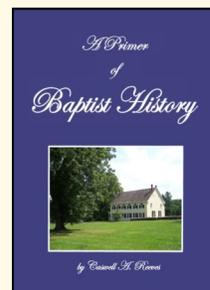
Spiritual Gifts
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Geocentricity
\$10.00

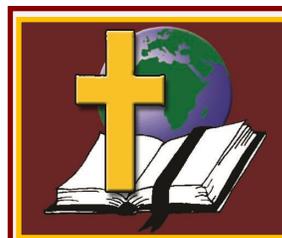
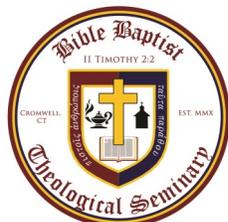


Baptist Doctrine & History
\$15.00



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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