



BBC UPDATE

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M. Ryan Strouse

WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH YOUR SHAME? PART TWO

Continued from September 15, 2020

The Shame of Not Attending Church

Often, consequence and shame keep people from the House of God because they feel they are unworthy to worship; the accuser of the brethren gets to work highlighting the believer's sin and failure to increase the distance from the House of God. It is important to observe in Solomon's prayer of dedication that the house of the LORD was a place of sincere worship and a place for sincere repentance. I Kings 8:33 highlights this truth, *"When thy people Israel be smitten down before the enemy, because they have sinned against thee, and shall turn again to thee, and confess thy name, and pray, and make supplication unto thee in this house."* Furthermore, I Kings 8:38-39 reveals, *"What prayer and supplication soever be [made] by any man, [or] by all thy people Israel, which shall know every man the plague of his own heart, and spread forth his hands toward this house: Then hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive, and do, and give to every man according to his ways, whose heart thou knowest; (for thou, [even] thou only, knowest the hearts of all the children of men."* The house of God was the place the people were to run to when they were in sin and needed to repent. Has the vicious cycle of not assembling and wandering into sin kept you from returning to the house of God?

The assembly is the place for sincere worship to the LORD and humble repentance of sin. James provided a similar call of repentance to the wandering, erring brethren during persecution in James 4:7-10, *"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse [your] hands, [ye] sinners; and purify [your] hearts, [ye] double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and [your] joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."* The humility and shame of a church member's sin should drive them to humble repentance. Return to the assembly to repent and begin the restoration process with the Lord.

The Pastor's Shame

Finally, the Lord requires the pastor to remember, repent, and do the first works when they lead His local assembly away from Truth. Peter, the pastor of the Jerusalem church, was admonished to the face by Paul for his dissimulation in regards to separating from the Gentiles (Gal.2:11-21). Of note, Peter received special revelation from the Lord in Acts 10 regarding the salvation and pouring out of the Holy Spirit on the Gentiles. Of all people, Peter knew better than to dissociate with the Gentiles he was eating with when the consortium from Jerusalem came to visit with Him; hence, Paul severely rebuked Peter to the face and held him accountable to known Truth.

Article continued on page 2

WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH YOUR SHAME? *continued*

M. RYAN STROUSE

Likewise, the Lord held the seven pastors over the seven candlesticks accountable in Revelation 2 and 3. Revelation 2:5 declares regarding the pastor of the church at Ephesus, *“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.”*

The eternal redemptive and restorative purposes of God through Christ have been, are, and will continue to begin with humble repentance to the LORD. The LORD declared in Isaiah 57:15-16, *“For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name [is] Holy; I dwell in the high and holy [place], with him also [that is] of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. For I will not contend for ever, neither will I be always wroth: for the spirit should fail before me, and the souls [which] I have made.”* The LORD promised to revive and restore the broken, humble, and contrite believers returning from Babylonian captivity, which prefigured those saved in the tribulation and entering the Millennium. The LORD uses shame, consequences, and judgment to contend with the believer until their spirit should fail or turn before Him in humble and broken repentance. Only then, in salvation and sanctification, will the LORD redeem and begin to restore through His mercy and grace. Church member, have you forsaken the assembly during this pandemic? Pastor, have you led your assembly away from the known truths of ecclesiology? What will you do with your shame?



Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

IT IS TIME FOR PASTORS TO EXAMINE THEIR CALLING!

DR. THOMAS M. STROUSE

Introduction

It seems that the Lord has employed Covid-19 to challenge biblical pastors to exegete several key passages concerning pastoral responsibilities. For instance, one such passage reads *“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: **for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you**”* (Heb. 13:17). Another passage, in fact, deals with the pastor’s divine calling, namely, *“**Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood**”* (Acts 20:28). Pastors must give an account to the Lord for their flock as they “oversee” their flock. Simply stated, when the flock is not faithfully assembling, pastors cannot fulfill their ministry by overseeing a visible flock.

Exegesis

The basic requirements for the biblical pastor are to feed the flock and to pray for the flock (Acts 6:4), all the while overseeing the flock. The first aforementioned passage (Heb. 13:17) teaches unequivocally these salient points. 1. The flock must obey and submit to the pastor of the assembly. 2. The pastor must watch (visibly) for the flock since he must give an account (*logos* = “word”) for his divinely-given responsibility. 3. If for some reason the

Continued on next page

pastor cannot oversee the flock and fulfill his responsibility to the Lord Jesus Christ, it will bring grief and not joy to him and unprofitability to the members of the flock. The second passage (Acts 20:28) succinctly teaches the following truths. 1. The pastor has received divine warning about his faithfulness to his calling as overseer (*episcopos* = “over see”). 2. The pastor must consider his faithfulness in feeding the flock as well. 3. The assembly is of supreme concern to the Lord since He shed His blood for the assembly members.

The Unassembled Assembly

Satan’s victory through Covid-19 is the diabolical plot and practice to attack the Lord’s assemblies and keep them from assembling. The unassembled assembly is not an *ekklesia*. Having virtual church services obviously is not publicly assembling and is not “having church.” This practice becomes public rebellion against the Lord’s *ekklesia* and ultimately against the Lord. The Lord’s *ekklesia* is a spiritual, biblical, theological, religious organization of visibly present assembly members. It is neither a health facility nor a government agency. The Lord owns the assembly, not Caesar! The pastor must teach the flock that they need to help him fulfill his responsibility of overseeing. The flock must faithfully assemble so that the pastor may oversee them. Virtual services for churches do not allow the pastor to oversee and be able to give an account. Satan knows this! Do pastors and their flocks? Pastors cannot oversee an unassembled, invisible, virtual “church.” The doctrine and practice of the virtual church fosters the sin of non-attendance to the assembly meetings. The pastor becomes guilty of sin twice-over: the purposeful inability to oversee visibly the flock (Acts 20:28), and the perpetuation of the non-attendance of the flock, including his own non-assembling with the whole church (Heb. 10:25).

Consequences

The pastor who fails at his divine task risks having his church removed from candlestick status. John stated, *“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. 2:5). Hosea warned unfaithful priests that the LORD would *“change their glory into shame”* (Hos. 4:7). Church members who do not assemble faithfully must be disciplined for their *“unruly”* walk (I Thes. 5:14). The pastor must remove those from the assembly who do not let him hold them accountable when they fail to be faithful in attendance.

Remedy

The spiritual remedy for the sin of not assembling is repentance. If the pastor does not teach in doctrine and practice the absolute necessity of faithful public assembling, he must repent and sin no more. If the church member does not faithfully assemble in the *ekklesia*, he/she must repent and sin no more. Pastors, rather than allowing Satan to undermine the Lord’s “assembled assembly,” let us take heed to our calling and the responsibility of overseeing our church members in the visible *ekklesia*, for which oversight we must give an account to the Good Shepherd! *“Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?”* (Gal. 4:16).

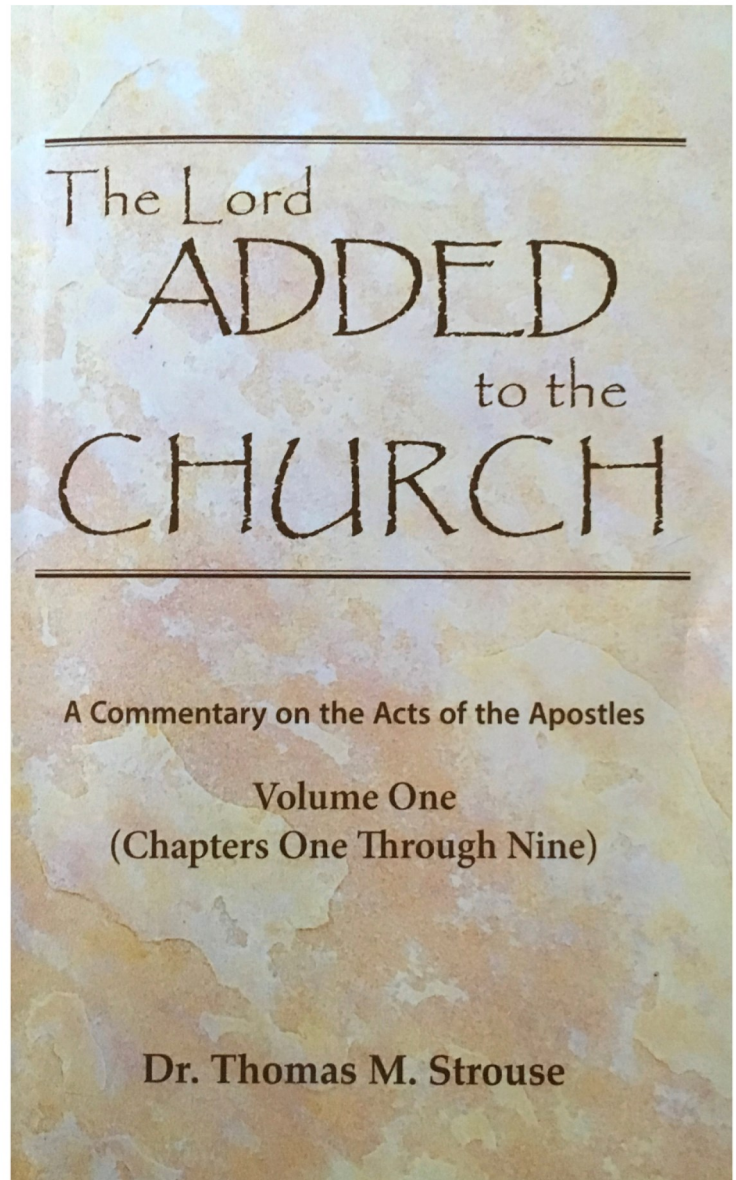
BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH ADDICTION MINISTRY

On Friday, Sept. 18, 2020, Bible Baptist Church held its first meeting for the Addiction Ministry with Dr. Robert Hovey introducing and preaching. The meetings are held every Friday at 7:00 PM.

If you know someone who might benefit from this church ministry, please contact 860-380-0681.

NEW BOOK

The Lord Added to the Church: A Commentary on the Acts of the Apostles, Vol. One (Chapters 1-9) by Dr. Thomas M. Strouse. Volume One has 664 pages and 2221 footnotes with 16 pages of Bibliography. Cost: \$30.00. Availability should be first week of October, 2020.



GALILEAN BAPTIST CHURCH CAMP MEN'S RETREAT



Galilean Baptist Church, under the leadership of Pastor Stephen Hinebaugh, held the annual Men's Camp Retreat on Sept. 24-26, 2020 and was well attended. It was encouraging to hear the preaching and have fellowship with brethren of like faith. Also noticeable were at least twelve men who were graduates or students of Bible Baptist Theological Seminary.

Dr. Blair was one of 5 speakers who challenged the men during the preaching.



Fellowship around the fire with like-minded brethren is a special time for the men.

Also the shooting contest on Saturday is a highlight of the weekend.





Pastor Cas Reeves

In a time when many people are unhappy there is hope and promise in God's Word of a joyful and happy life. We are instructed and admonished by God throughout the scriptures. But do we listen? No! If we receive and obey this heavenly instruction then there would be joy and thanksgiving in our lives and our families – Yes, even our churches and Country. It would be a wonderful life – just as God promises.

What is this instruction that God gives us for a joyous and thankful life. You find it here in the book of Ephesians. First, you need to learn what the will of the Lord is for your life (v.17). Are you saved? Salvation needs to come first; then serving the Lord, which is a lifetime thing. Secondly, you need to let the Spirit of God teach and direct your life (v.18). There are too many times that a Christian is guilty of doing what he or she

JOYFUL & THANKFUL LIVING

"Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. 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."

Ephesians 5:17-21

wants rather than doing what the Lord wants. Be careful, and remember He will never lead you contrary to the Scripture. So know your Bible. Thirdly, note the joyfulness of heart (v.19). Now that is real happiness. Also note the wholesome songs that you are singing – they aren't the world's songs. Fourthly, you are to give thanks for all things (v.19). Surely, we can all see the bad side of things and the bad things in people, but instead let us, in love, look at the good in one another, evoking true love's admonishment of *"thinking no evil"* (1 Corinthians 13:4-7). As well, let us submit to one another, we really don't have to have our way all the time (v.21).

I guarantee, on the promise of God that you can have a joyful and thankful life. But you must receive and follow the instruction of God's heavenly words.



We said "Farewell" to Robin as she relocates out of state.

Quotes from the Past



"Industry, thrift and self-control are not sought because they create wealth, but because they create character."

Calvin Coolidge 1872-1933

30th President of the United States

THE BOOK CORNER

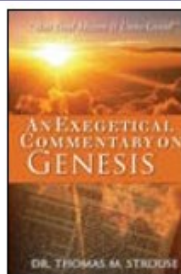
These books may be purchased through Bible Baptist Church:

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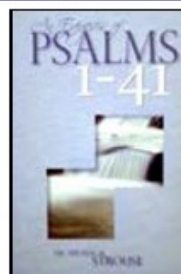
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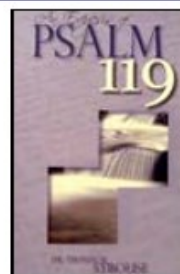
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Genesis
\$20.00



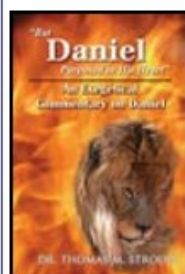
Psalms 1 - 41
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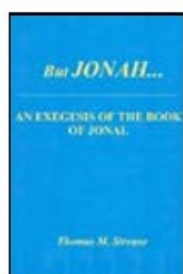
Psalm 119
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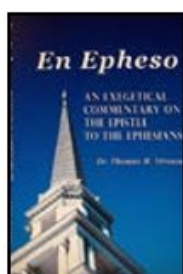
Isaiah
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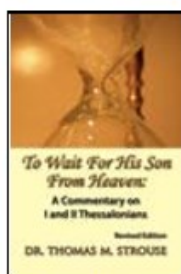
Daniel
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Jonah
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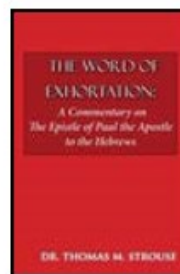
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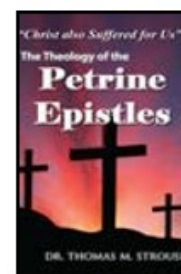
Thessalonians
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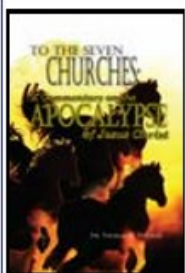
I & II Timothy
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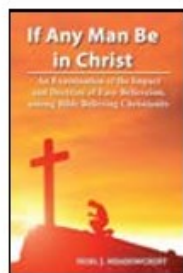
Hebrews
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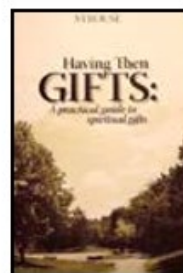
Peter
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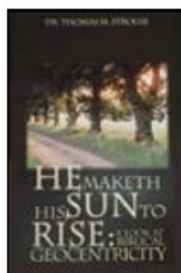
Revelation
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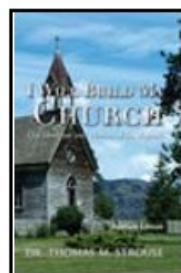
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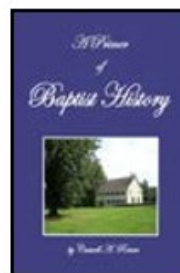
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Bibliology
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BBC 2020 SCHEDULE

October 25-28

Willow Grove Baptist Church
"Timeless Truths Bible Conference"

November 13

BBTS Fall Lecture Series

If you have any news for the next issue of the BBC Update, please send and email to: drtms_bbts@juno.com



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