BBC UPDATE

Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

BIBLE TRUTHS THAT CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIANITY SELDOM HEAR

Contemporary Christianity, especially in the West, is pathetically weak in the revelation of the full exegesis of the Scriptures, apparently with pastors attempting to attract attendance size with programs and soft preaching rather than expounding *"all the counsel of God"* (Acts 20:27). The approach is to introduce visitors with "feel good" and "non-specific sins" type of preaching. Those that come into these churches quite often leave the same way with no challenge about sin and the remedy for sin. Even if they are converted by the blood of Christ through repentance and faith in His work on the Cross, they receive little or no instruction from the Scripture for their Christian life. The converted life should grow in truth and begin to *"put off"* thoughts and behavior contrary to the Bible. Although converted sinners enter into the Christian life with "old man" baggage, they are not challenged "to put off" the pre-conversion lifestyle and continue to think and behave as the world. Although looking like a Christian does not make a Christian, the new convert should avoid the practices of world. As a new Christian, the believer must avoid what the Lord condemns in his Word, such as tattoos, long hair on men, alcohol (even in moderation!), females dressing like harlots, and even giving the *infamis digitus*.

It is the responsibility of the biblical pastor to teach the whole counsel of God, including clear prohibitions against satanic behaviour and practices. For instance, the LORD warned Israel about the abominations of the heathen, such as *"Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you: I am the LORD"* (Lev. 19:28). The pagan practices which are so popular today among the unsaved and saved include cuttings in the flesh and having tattoos. After all, every Christian needs a tattoo of the Cross or some Scripture verse written on the

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exposed body to show identification with Christ, right? Although the English word tattoo appeared in the 18th century, the *KJV* did not employ the noun but translated the verb/noun literally. Modern versions such as the *NKJV* used the word "tattoo." Tattooing has always been associated with paganism! Defilement of the body receives condemnation from the Lord! He said, *"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's"* (I Cor. 6:19-20).

Again, popular spokesmen of Contemporary Christianity manifest the long and feminine hair on themselves, supposing to emulate the effeminate, longhaired Jesus found in the 15th-16th century European Renaissance art work. The Lord Jesus was from Nazareth but He was not a practicing Nazarite (Num. 6:2-5). He did not violate His own words through the Apostle Paul's admonition, which said, *"Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?"* (I Cor. 11:14). Even the weak and anemic *ESV* states, "Does not nature itself teach you that if a man wears long hair it is a disgrace for him."

Moreover, it seems to be chic and stylish to be somewhat worldly for Christians among Christian friends and family to drink alcohol, of course always in moderation! Who wants to be "narrow-minded" and avoid brain-destroying alcohol, whether beer, wine, or vodka? The precious Saviour wrote the Scriptures of which the Prophet Habakkuk warned, saying, *"Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that puttest thy bottle to him, and makest him drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness!"* (Hab. 2:15). Further, Solomon described the partaker of alcohol, saying, *"They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder"* (Prov. 23:30-32). The Apostle Paul delineated the nature of alcohol, as excess, saying, *"And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit"* (Eph. 5:18). Can a Christian filled with the spirits of alcohol be filled with the Spirit? *"I trow not!"*

Now, it is fashionable not only with the world but also in Contemporary Christianity for Christian women to dress seductively in public and worship services. Solomon warned his son about seductive women who wear *"the attire of an harlot"* (Prov. 7:10) with the exposure and exhalation of several body parts, especially the bosom with cleavage, the midsection with tight clothing front and back, and the exposure of the thighs. Why, harlots may go to the malls around the world and say, "Wait a minute, we have competition with the grade school, high

Continued on next page

school, and college girls, not to mention the handful of trad-wives that are still in existence!" Who are the contemporary Christian women attempting to seduce? Peter challenged Christian women, saying, *"While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price"* (I Pet. 3:24).

Although not the last Bible truth of which ignorance runs rampant among Contemporary Christians is the divine condemnation of using the *infamis digitus*. Scripture speaks for itself, *"Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the* ***putting forth of the finger****, and speaking vanity"* (Isa. 58:9). This gesture was known in the ancient world of Isaiah, and among the Romans it was designated the *digitus impudicus. F*or the proud wicked in the past and even now, it demonstrates great disgust or dislike for the recipient. The gesture shows the hateful and proud heart of the individual giving it, and the LORD vowed to refuse answers to prayer! There are many ways to show hatred towards others, but for the Christian, love must exude from the believer and not hate! Christians need to be taught and receive *"all the counsel of God."*

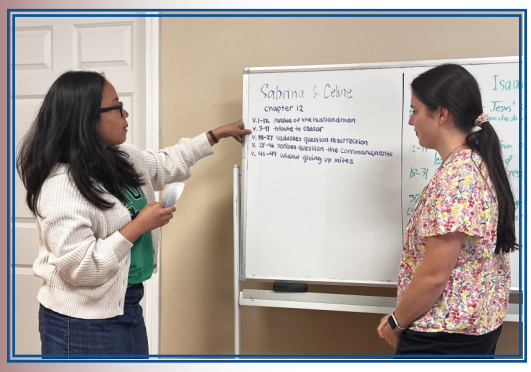
The Apostle Paul started the Corinthian Baptist Church in pagan Greece filled with Gnostic belief and practice, no different from the Canaanite wickedness. Through Moses the LORD expressed His prohibitions, saying, *"There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee"* (Dt. 18:10-12). The Apostle challenged the new converts in Corinth, saying, *"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 *"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you"* (II Cor. 6:17).

BIBLE QUIZ TRAINING

Aiko and Naomi Tinte, together with Marquis Burwell, continue to teach and train the young people in studying the Gospel of Mark. These are the principles that the coaches want to emphasize:

Individual accountability – Eccl. 9:10

Coaches take note of each individual's performance to see how they are doing and what kind of support is needed. The young people are encouraged to do their best for the Lord, taking advantage of their summer break to spend time studying the Word.



Teamwork – Eccl. 4:9-10

One person cannot do all the work. The coaches have come up with strategies to foster camaraderie and teamwork. The goal is for the players to learn to help one another.

Perseverance – Prov. 14:23

Studying the Bible is not easy; memorizing Scripture is not a simple task either. However, the coaches believe these habits will help them in the future, whether in the ministry or in the secular realm. The young people are being challenged to "do hard things" and not shy away from them. A fulfilling reward is given only to those who have truly labored for it.

Glorifying God – I Cor. 10:31

In all this, the coaches want the young people to remember that everything we do is for the glory of God. More than winning, the ultimate goal is to glorify the Lord.

UPCOMING EVENT

LABOR DAY COOKOUT

- Strouse House
- September 7, 2026
- 2-7 PM

BBTS FALL SEMESTER

Beginning August 24, 2026
Monday (6-9 PM)
Ecclesiastes
Dr. M. Ryan Strouse

Beginning August 27, 2026
Thursday (6-9 PM)
Hebrew/Greek
Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

BBC/BBTS 2026-2027 SCHEDULE

Sep. 7, 2026
Strouse House (2-7 PM)
New Britain, CT
Labor Day Cookout

Sep. 28-Oct. 2, 2026
Bible Baptist Church
Nashua, NH
Isaiah

Oct. 18-21, 2026
Willow Grove Baptist Church
Waynesburg, PA
Habakkuk

Nov. 6, 2026
BBTS Fall Lecture Series
Stafford Springs, CT
TBD

Jan. 4-8, 2027
River View Baptist Church
Ireland
Hebrew & Psalms 90-106

Jan. 11-15, 2027
Fairhaven Baptist Church
Chesterton, IN
TBD

Feb. 8-12, 2027
Cornerstone Baptist Church
Philippines
Psalms 90-106

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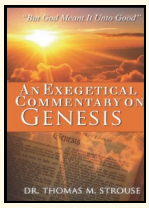

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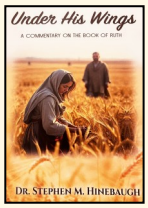

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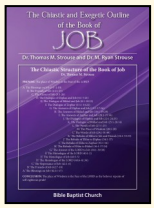

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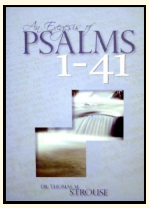

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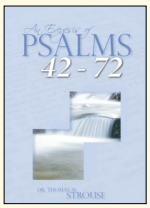

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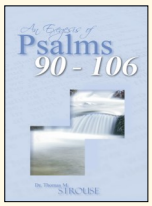

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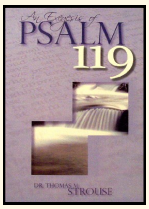

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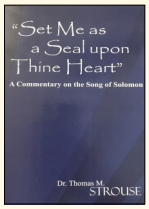

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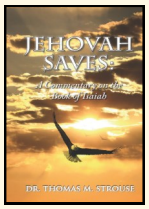

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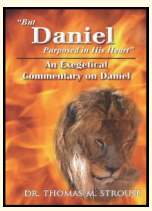

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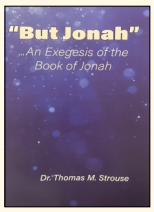

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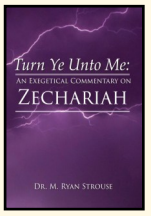

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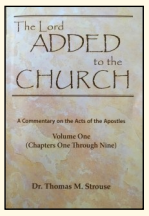

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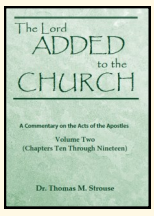

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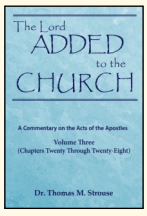

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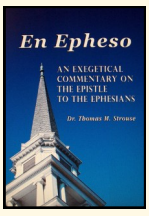

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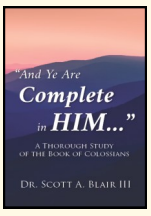

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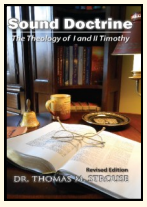

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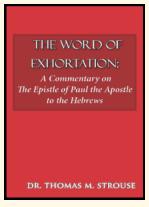

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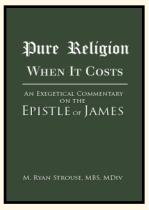

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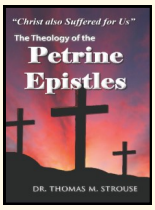

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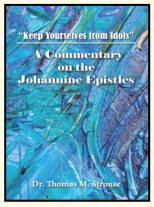

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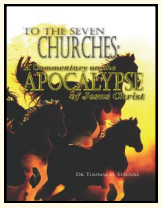

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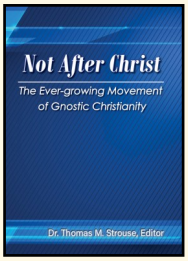

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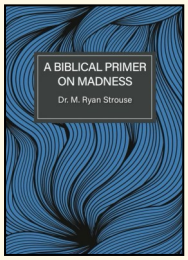

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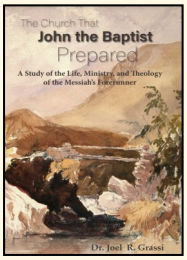

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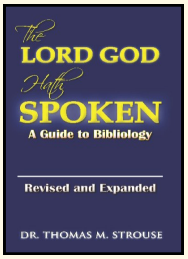

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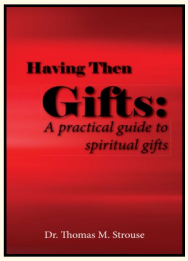

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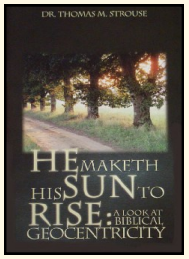

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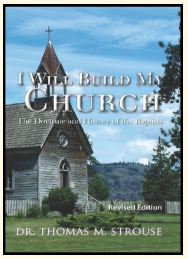

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