

SPIRITUAL GOLD DOT ORG

...IT'S GOD'S WORD, YOU CAN COUNT ON IT...

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“My desire and hope is that Spiritual Gold will reach our world with the positive message that God is alive and has the answers for the problems facing us today. In his messages on the Spiritual Gold website, my husband, Richard, takes the Scriptures and breaks them down so that we can understand and receive practical advice as we live one day at a time.” —Mary Strauss



The Doctrine of Christ

“I know this isn’t like many of my sermons; it’s more doctrinal than relational,” warned Dr. Strauss. “But unless we understand the doctrine, we really can’t live in relation with God as God wants us to live.”

“Who do you say that I am?,” asked Jesus of His disciples. The gospel of John tells us about the identity of Jesus, a critical part of the doctrine of Christ. Dr. Strauss must have had to coax some of the flock to come along with him that day in 1979, because to explain the doctrine, he added a lesson in Greek grammar! He offered encouragement to persevere: “It’s important!”

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A Cloud of Witnesses

Earlier this year we received an unusual request from a young pastor*:

“My grandfather passed away last August, just before his 82nd birthday. He was my mentor in the ministry and now what I have are the preserved ministries through writings and audio recordings of great men who have gone before. I count Dr. Richard Strauss as one of the top five men whose preaching and teaching has greatly impacted my own ministry. I listen to at least one message of his every week and at times have listened to five+ in a given week. I love the website and the ability to search by subject and Scripture reference.

“I would love to have a picture I can print of Dr. Richard Strauss (his father Dr. Lehman Strauss as well, if that is possible) to go in a frame on a shelf in my office, where I place pictures of the men whom I consider my heroes—my grandfather among them.”

This man is assembling what reminded us of a modern symbol of Hebrews 12:1. “Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.”

* edited for brevity

Dear Spiritual Gold,

“I am still listening to Richard’s recorded sermons. Some I listen to 2-3 times as there is so much to learn about God’s word.”

—Veda, a relatively new Christian

“My Dad, who teaches a Sunday School class in his church, has been using the text form of Dr. Strauss’ series on Romans as a commentary for his studies!”

—K.W., a pastor

“I just wanted to say again how Richard’s influence continues in my life – I remember when I used to stop by in high school to visit and he gave me time to chat and share – little did he know that he was influencing someone for life. I feel that much of my preaching style is devoted to Richard and his style that I was honored to sit under for many months and years... [H]is influence in style and center in the Word has remained with me for many years.”

—J.W., recently planted a church

“[We] have unplugged our television and we now listen to sermons from Richard and other Bible teaching pastors in the evenings. We just listened to a great sermon on the Spiritual Gold website that Richard preached from Jeremiah, ‘The Poverty of Religion.’ This message is still relevant today! ...It is wonderful to hear Richard’s voice. He is still ministering to us 20 years after he went to be with the Lord.”

—S.K., via email

Year-End Giving

This ministry operates solely on gifts. In fulfillment of our ministry's mission, our Board of Directors strategically supports pastoral training ministries here and around the world—including Africa and the Middle East.

If you'd like to make a donation, please send a check payable to Spiritual Gold, Inc., 749 Willow Glen, Escondido, CA 92025. You may use a credit card online via PayPal (<http://spiritualgold.org/gifts>). Spiritual Gold is a 501c3 not-for-profit organization. Your donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

The Doctrine of Christ (cont.)

“Today some argue that because John [in his prologue] does not use a definite article in the Greek, it should be translated as, *the Word was a god*. But the absence of a definite article does not mean that John intended an indefinite article such as *a* or *an*, for there is no such thing in Greek grammar. Rather, the absence of a definite article in Greek emphasizes the quality or nature of the noun rather than the identity of the noun.” In fact, John constructs the Greek text to emphasize God even further by putting “God” before “the Word.” The Word, Whose incarnation we celebrate each Christmas, was not simply *a* god.

To say that John 1:1 should be translated as *a god* is intellectually dishonest, for the same people arguing for the insertion of an indefinite article do not make the same argument for verses 6, 12, 13, and 18. (Look them up!)

God commands us to love Him with all our heart...and mind. John built the intellectual foundation for our faith summarized by the doctrine of Christ, saying in his epilogue, “these [signs and sayings of Jesus] have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”

from DC-6B, *The Word Made Flesh*, August 26, 1979

Forty Days and Forty Nights

Did you know that if you listened to Dr. Strauss' messages for 40 days and 40 nights, you still wouldn't hear all of them?!

You can find over 1500 messages at SpiritualGold.org. That's over 1,000 hours of material you can use to study God's Word. Dr. Strauss' messages (1974 to 1993) cover 23 books of the Bible and 52 topics, from Aging Gracefully to the Will of God.

Around the Globe: Ministries Supported by Spiritual Gold

The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few. Evangelical Theological College (ETC) of Ethiopia is working to produce more laborers to go out to the nations, teach, and gather the harvest. Most ETC graduates are serving the Lord in Ethiopia, where 33% of the population is Muslim. Please join us in praying for a bountiful harvest among the Muslims.

Spiritual Gold supports ministries that help to educate Christian leaders around the world. In light of that goal, one of our gifts this year was to ETC in support of their building fund. This was made possible through your donations to Spiritual Gold.

Coincidental? Consequential!

Some of you may know that Dr. and Mary Strauss' granddaughter Cara is a missionary in Bolivia, helping women leave prostitution as they pursue entrepreneurial endeavors and a new life in Christ. She recently told Mary that she had been having some trouble with her young children, the typical minor misbehavior of all children around the world! When she shared this with her mother-in-law, the wise retired doctor told Cara she had a helpful book for her. She couldn't remember exactly what it was but knew she could find it somewhere.

After a bit of searching, eureka! Cara's mother-in-law presented Cara with the book that she herself found quite helpful in raising her own children years ago: a Spanish translation of *Confident Children and How they Grow*. She didn't realize Cara's connection with the author!

