

DON'T LET ANYONE SCAM YOU! ***Colossians 2***

The internet is very efficient at scamming people: _____ of complaints from Fraud.org focus on the internet
We must also be careful of “scams” in the spiritual realm; we normally call such spiritual scams _____
The church at Colossae was started by Epaphras who was discipled by _____ while he ministered in Ephesus
Later a cult moved into Colossae; Epaphras went to Rome to seek Paul’s help & he wrote the book of _____

I. THE ATTRIBUTES OF SPIRITUAL SCAMS

A. Spiritual Scams Are a Mixture of _____ and Attractive Error

- 1) The cult at Colossae taught their followers to keep the ceremonial _____ —feast days, unclean food
- 2) They also mixed in teachings of the _____ religions, claiming that they had secret knowledge
- 3) Many modern cults promise secret knowledge—only those on the _____ can really know God

B. Spiritual Scams Are _____

- 1) V.8—traditions of _____ ; v.22—doctrines of _____; v.18—the false teachers claimed _____
- 2) Most modern cults place the authority of the writings of their human founders above _____

C. Spiritual Scams Denigrate the Person of _____

- 1) The cult at Colossae taught Jesus was not _____ the Son nor as an angel was He even human
- 2) Paul wrote Colossians to emphasize that Jesus was 100% _____ and 100% man—ALL we need!

D. Spiritual Scams Teach a Salvation Based on Human _____

- 1) The cult at Colossae taught their followers to keep certain rules (v.21) to gain _____
- 2) Many modern cults motivate their followers to serve and be faithful by basing salvation on _____

II. OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD SPIRITUAL SCAMS

A. Don't Let Anyone _____ You 2:4

- 1) Paraphrase of v.4: “Don't let anyone _____ you by deceiving you with plausible-sounding words”
- 2) The word “deceive” is used in Josh.9 of the Gibeonites who _____ what they were until it was too late
- 3) Many modern cults claim they are _____ and do not share their real teachings until you join

B. Don't Let Anyone _____ You 2:8

- 1) “Cheat” is a strong word picture: “Don't let anyone carry you off as booty into _____”
- 2) Modern cults offer “empty deceit”—powerless to grant the spiritual _____ we have in Christ

C. Don't Let Anyone _____ You 2:16

- 1) Paul encouraged us not to let anyone sit in _____ on us with regard to extra-biblical rules
- 2) Many cults achieve control by claiming to determine who gets to _____ based on their rules

D. Don't Let Anyone _____ You 2:18

- 1) “Disqualify” has 2 roots: “to act as an umpire or _____” + “against” = decide who gets the prize
- 2) Cult leaders make out like they get to decide who goes to heaven or who gets eternal _____
- 3) Ex: J. Witness leaders teach that only the most faithful to their teachings will be one of the _____