



Come Up Higher | Session 10: Don't Be Cheated

Pastor Dale Campbell

I. Introduction / Review

A. We are called to “Come Up Higher”

In previous sessions we have looked at the words of the Apostle Paul declaring that he was reaching forward to the upward call of God. Although Paul had obtained many things from the Lord, he was always moving toward the HIGHER PLACE.

Our goal should always be to move forward – reaching into HIGHER PLACES in the Lord.

II. Don't be Cheated

The enemy is always at work to keep us from advancing spiritually. Prior to salvation, his goal was to keep you from being saved. After you are saved, his goal is to keep you from progressing and growing into a mature and skillful child of God.

One of the ways Satan works to accomplish this goal is to keep people from receiving what belongs to them in CHRIST. Satan wants to CHEAT YOU out of what truly belongs to you.

We must see that WE ARE NEVER CHEATED by the enemy.

A. Colossians 2:2 speaks of attaining to all the riches that come through understanding what God has done for us in Christ:

AMPC “[For my hope is] that their hearts may be encouraged as they are knit together in [unselfish] love, so that they may have all the riches that come from the full assurance of understanding [the joy of salvation], resulting in a true [and more intimate] knowledge of the mystery of God, *that is, Christ*”



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B. Colossians 2:6-10

NKJV “As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. **Beware** lest anyone **cheat you** through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.”

1. Satan wants to spoil God's people

- a. Satan seeks to rob God's people of their kingdom inheritance.
- b. The enemy wants to strip believers of their covenant blessings
- c. The enemy's goal is to deceive God's people out of their victory.

2. Paul was giving a stern warning to the Colosse church: do not be CHEATED!

- a. There were those who, through wrong teaching, would CHEAT the Colossians out of what Jesus had provided for them.
- b. **CHEAT** (KJV = “SPOIL”) - To lead away from the truth; to plunder. *Carrying away that which has been provided for you.*

PASTOR'S NOTE: *Jehosaphat was 3 days carrying away the SPOIL of the enemy. They carried away the SPOIL – they plundered the enemy's camp. PAUL IS WARNING THE COLOSSEANS THAT THE ENEMY WANTS TO PLUNDER THEM BY CARRYING AWAY – SPOIL – TAKING – WHAT RIGHTFULLY BELONGS TO YOU.*



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C. Colossians 2: 8-10

AMPC “See to it that no one carries you off as spoil *or* makes you yourselves captive by his so-called philosophy *and* intellectualism and vain deceit (idle fancies and plain nonsense), following human tradition (men’s ideas of the material rather than the spiritual world), just crude notions following the rudimentary *and* elemental teachings of the universe and disregarding [the teachings of] Christ (the Messiah).”

CEV (Verse 8): “Don't let anyone fool you by using senseless arguments. These arguments may sound wise, but they are only human teachings. They come from the powers of this world and not from Christ.”

PASTOR’S NOTE: *To be CHEATED is to be fooled.*

GWT “Be careful not to let anyone **rob you** [of this faith] through a shallow and **misleading philosophy**. Such a person follows human traditions and the world's way of doing things rather than following Christ”

PASTOR’S NOTE: *Misleading philosophies have potential to ROB you. **John 10:10** - “The thief cometh not but for to steal, kill and destroy.”*

1. Another warning: Col 2:18-19

NKJV “Let no one **cheat** you of your reward, taking delight in *false* humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase *that is from God*.”



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AMPC “Let no one defraud you by acting as an umpire *and* declaring you unworthy *and* disqualifying you for the prize, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, taking his stand on visions [he claims] he has seen, vainly puffed up by his sensuous notions *and* inflated by his unspiritual thoughts *and* fleshly conceit, And not holding fast to the Head, from Whom the entire body, supplied and knit together by means of its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.”

PASTOR'S NOTE: *Paul's warning is DO NOT BE CHEATED by people who appear spiritual – teaching things that SOUND SPIRITUAL – but, in reality, they are not spiritual at all.*

This is a stern warning that every believer needs to give heed to: WATCH out for teachings, instruction, doctrines, Christian fads, strange things that have an APPEARANCE of being spiritual, but are not biblical or PUFF UP (EXALT) the one bringing the message more than they exalt God and His word!

Following these things will leave you CHEATED/SPOILED by the enemy.
People who follow these things end up EMPTY.

- 2. The #1 method of being cheated is through doctrinal error / false teaching.** *The Apostles had to deal more with this subject than any others because there were always those attempting to lead people away from Biblical Truth!*

John 8:32 NKJV “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

TPT “For if you embrace the truth, it will release true freedom into your lives.”



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PASTOR'S NOTE: *Truth keeps me on course. Truth keeps me in the right flow of everything that God has provided for me. Deception gets me off course and leads me in a direction where God's flow of blessing doesn't work for me.*

3. Watch out for "tradition"

- a. **Tradition defined:** The transmission of customs or beliefs from generation to generation. A doctrine believed to have divine authority though not in the scriptures.

PASTOR'S NOTE: One of the chief ways that Satan keeps people from receiving the benefit of TRUTH is to bind them with tradition that is not scriptural → *THINGS WE BELIEVE TO BE TRUE THAT ARE NOT!* → *THINGS WE BELIEVE TO BE BIBLICAL BUT ARE NOT.*

- b. **Mark 7:1-13 NKJV** "Then the Pharisees and some of the scribes came together to Him, having come from Jerusalem. Now when they saw some of His disciples eat bread with defiled, that is, with unwashed hands, they found fault. For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash *their* hands in a special way, holding the tradition of the elders. *When they come* from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other things which they have received and hold, *like* the washing of cups, pitchers, copper vessels, and couches.

Then the Pharisees and scribes asked Him, 'Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?' He answered and said to them, 'Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honors Me with *their* lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in



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vain they worship Me, Teaching *as* doctrines the commandments of men.'

For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men—the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do.' He said to them, '*All too* well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition. For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.' But you say, 'If a man says to his father or mother, "Whatever profit you might have received from me *is* Corban" —' (that is, a gift *to God*), then you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother, making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do.'"

PASTOR'S NOTE: *THEY honored TRADITION more than they honored the WORD.*

- Tradition that is not WORD inspired will cheat you.
- Tradition honored above the WORD of God will ROB from you.
- TOO much tradition – and TOO little Word emphasis – will keep you from the REAL THING that God has provided freely for you.
- Honoring the tradition above the Word causes the WORD to become ineffective in your life.

How many people have not received what God says is theirs simply because their tradition told them they were not supposed to have it?

- *"That's not the way we believe it."*
- *"That's not the way we do it."*



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D. Are you being cheated?

1. What benefits are you being cheated of?

Psalm 68:19

KJV "Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation."

Douay-Rheims Bible "Blessed be the Lord day by day: the God of our salvation will make our journey prosperous to us."

- a. God is daily loading us with BENEFITS – prospering our journey.
- b. Satan's mission is to keep us from the benefits – or keep the benefits from working in us.

2. What does God have for you that you have not received yet?

- a. **Lot:** Lot was spoiled by the enemy. HOW? STRIFE. *Strife between his herdsmen and Abraham's herdsmen cause a division / separation between these two men. Lot LOST ALL THAT HE HAD RECEIVED. The enemy found a place – an opportunity – to SPOIL LOT.*
- b. **What is the enemy taking from you?**
What is the enemy keeping from you?

E. How to guard against being cheated out of your benefits:

1. Mediate on your benefits.

Psalm 103:1-5 NKJV "Bless the Lord, O my soul; And all that is within me, *bless* His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, And **forget not all His benefits:** Who **forgives** all your iniquities, Who **heals** all your diseases, Who **redeems** your life from destruction, Who **crowns** you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, Who



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satisfies your mouth with good *things*, *So that* your youth is **renewed** like the eagle's."

HCSB "My soul, praise the LORD, and do not forget all His benefits. He forgives all your sin; He heals all your diseases. He redeems your life from the Pit; He crowns you with faithful love and compassion. He satisfies you with goodness; your youth is renewed like the eagle."

The Voice "Despite all your *many* offenses, He forgives *and releases you*. *More than any doctor*, He heals your diseases. He reaches *deep* into the pit to deliver you from death. He crowns you with unfailing love and compassion *like a king*. *When your soul is famished and withering*, He fills you with good *and beautiful* things, satisfying you as long as you live. He makes you *strong* like an eagle, restoring your youth."

2. To meditate on your benefits is to keep the benefits before you!

Prov 4:20-22

NKJV "My son, **give attention** to my words; **Incline** your ear to my sayings. **Do not let them depart** from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; For they *are* life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh."

PASTOR'S NOTE: *When the BENEFITS depart from your eyes, you are an open door to be CHEATED / SPOILED by the enemy.*

3. Know your covenant rights:

- a. **John 8:32** states that the truth we know is what sets us free.



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- b. **Hosea states that those who lack knowledge are destroyed.**
 - c. **KNOW YOUR COVENANT RIGHTS**
 - d. **The benefits come to those who know what belongs to them.**
 - e. **When you know what belongs to you, you can receive by faith.**
- 4. **Know how to deal with the enemy / thief.**
 - a. **Use your authority.**
 - b. **Refuse to allow the enemy to keep from you those benefits that rightfully belong to you.**
 - c. **STAND YOUR GROUND.**
 - d. **RESIST THE ENEMY.**
 - e. **Satan is always opposing your benefit package. But by the blood of Jesus – by the authority given by Jesus – by the NAME of Jesus – YOU CAN PUT HIM TO FLIGHT.**