



SPIRITUAL SCAMMERS

FEBRUARY 2, 2026

2 TIMOTHY 3:13 NKJV – (13) But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

A “**Scammer**” is defined as a person who commits ***fraud*** or participates in a ***dishonest scheme***. Have you ever received a text stating that you have a package at a certain place, even though you know you haven’t ordered a package? There are many types of fraud. ***Pious fraud*** is a term used to refer to a person who uses deceit to advance religious ends or belief or to attain what he considers a noble or good end. ***Pious fraud*** can also refer to the deception itself.

Pious fraud exists today. **EXAMPLE:** When a church puts gold-colored dust in its ventilation system so congregants can witness a “glory cloud,” that church is practicing pious fraud. When a pastor manipulates Scripture from the pulpit to prompt his hearers to give to a bigger offering, that pastor is dealing in pious fraud. God’s Word is clear that any kind of deceit is sin. Pious fraud can never be honoring to God because of its deceitful nature. The ends never justify the means, especially in God’s kingdom.

Jesus had to deal with pious frauds, too. **Mark 12:38–40** says, “As he taught, Jesus said, ‘Watch out for the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. They devour widows’ houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. These men will be punished most severely.’”

When we look at the above scripture reference Paul makes it clear to Timothy that they are evil impostors and they grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

In **Ephesians 5:6** Paul wrote, "Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience." To get rid of scammers, immediately stop all contact with them, do not respond to their communication, block their numbers from your ear gates, and report them to the appropriate authorities like your Father in heaven (Jesus).

SCRIPTURE READING: GALATIANS 3:1; 4:17

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: I'd rather fail with honor than succeed by fraud.