

"Ask Dr. Ryrie" Questions to Be Used on AudioNet
(as of 7/21/97)

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1. (from LSO, Wednesday, July 16, 1997)

Subject: Will those who haven't heard of Jesus go to heaven?

Dear Dr. Ryrie: A coworker of mine asked the following questions: If the only way to get to heaven is through faith in Christ, what about those who have never heard of Christ? How can they choose whether or not to believe when they never knew there was a choice to make? How would you respond, and could you cite some Scriptures that would support your position?-- Matt C.

Dear Matt: Acts 4:12 clearly says that only through Christ are we saved. Those who have never heard of Christ still can and do make a choice, not about Christ but about the revelation of God in the world around them. Psalm 19:1-2 says that by looking to the heavens we can know something of the glory of God and of the work of His hands. This information is displayed through all the earth (v. 4). Also, Romans 1:20 declares that God's invisible attributes--His eternal power and divine nature--are clearly seen in creation. So all people have some knowledge of God, which they either reject or accept. If they accept, I believe that God will send them further information about Christ, as He did to Cornelius (Acts 10). But as a very practical matter, your coworker has heard of Christ and had better be concerned about himself, whether he rejects or accepts the Lord. I'm afraid people often ask about those who haven't heard in order to have an excuse (in their own minds) for not accepting Christ.

2. (from LSO, March 5, 1997)

Subject: Capital punishment

Dear Dr. Ryrie: What is the biblical view of capital punishment? -- Paul B.

Dear Paul: God instituted capital punishment in cases of murder in Genesis 9:6. It was also part of the law of Moses for about a dozen crimes, including murder. Today, the government has the right to "bear the sword" (Romans 13:4). The word for sword is similar to our English word "sabre," which was a sword worn by Roman magistrates who did have the right to inflict capital punishment. For more detail on this subject, you might read a chapter on capital punishment I wrote in a book entitled *Biblical Answers to Contemporary Issues*, published by Moody Press.

murder
work on Sabbath
adultery
incest
sodomy
false prophecy
idolatry
incest, juvenile
rape
kidnapping
keeping of those killed
alien who introduced into sacred place
stoning
burning

3. (from LSO, February 26, 1997)

Subject: How do I know the Holy Spirit is living in me?

Dear Dr. Ryrie: In most Christian literature, including the Bible, it is assumed that the Holy Spirit lives in the Christian. However, this is not my experience. I have no assurance of His presence or His love; He doesn't make the Scriptures clear to me; I have no peace; I'm afraid of God; and the door is always shut when I knock. Is this the way it's supposed to be? -- Jeff P.