

received as a free gift when you believed would be taken away. But none of this can happen, for our Lord clearly said, "The one who comes to me I will never, never cast out (John 6:37).

16. (from LSO, Monday, March 31, 1997)

Subject: Doubting my salvation

Dear Dr. Ryrie: I am a 50-year-old man who has recently returned to the Lord. I was raised as a Jehovah's Witness. Even though I know that Jesus died for my sins, I still have a feeling of guilt in my stomach (an actual hardness) when I feel doubt. What scriptures can you suggest to help me? -- Jerry O.

Dear Jerry: It is not uncommon for a person to experience doubts about his or her salvation. Here is a suggestion that I hope will help you. Hang on to God's promises, and remember that He never goes back on His Word. Think about the promise in Acts 13:39: "Through Him [Jesus] everyone who believes [that includes you] is freed from all things [including your feelings of guilt] by which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses." Or Romans 3:25 which says that God has justified (that means "declared you righteous") the person who believes in Jesus. Every sin you ever committed or ever will commit in the future was paid for and forgiven at the cross of Calvary. Or "There is therefore now [emphasize that word when you have doubts] no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1). Or Galatians 5:1 which says that Christ has set you free. So when these feelings of guilt or doubt seem to overwhelm you, let the Word of God flood your mind and overcome those feelings.

17. (from LSO, Friday, April 4, 1997)

Subject: Are church fundraisers o.k.?

Dear Dr. Ryrie: Is it against biblical principles to raise funds for certain ministries by selling products to the community at large (fireworks, candy, car washes, spaghetti dinners, etc.)? -- Frank C.

Dear Frank: You have raised a touchy question. As far as the biblical pattern is concerned, those who are ministered to should support those who minister to them (Gal. 6:6). Believers support the church. However, when Paul was shipwrecked on Malta, he used his gift of healing to heal some of those who lived there; and they (presumably ^{incl. some} unbelievers) in turn gave him gifts when Paul was ready to sail again (Acts 28:10). The general guideline is that believers support the work of the church by their own contributions. I think we should be careful about imitating how the world raises money, though I have no problem with youth groups' car washes, for example, for some special activity. *of Thems.*

18. (from LSO, Monday, April 7, 1997)

Subject: How did Cain know murder was wrong?

Dear Dr. Ryrie: How did Cain know it was wrong to kill his brother when the Ten Commandments were not given until many years later? This is a question from our Sunday School class. -- Linda V.