

world which clearly allowed evil to be a part of it. This plan also included man's ability to make choices. So we have to acknowledge that sin was within God's eternal decrees, and yet He is not the author of the sin. We must also conclude that since God is rightly angry with sin, the sinner must bear the blame for his sin. It is a false assumption to conclude that what ought not to be sin [in His plan] ought not to be permitted [our ability to commit sins]. If you are a parent, you know that good parents permit their children to make wrong choices (even though the parent might prevent that happening), and yet the blame for doing wrong belongs to the child, not the parent. Likewise, God has a plan which permits us to sin, but the blame for sin rests squarely on us, not Him.

22. (from LSO, Wednesday, April 30, 1997)

Subject: Will I be judged by the last thing I do before I die?

Dear Dr. Ryrie: I read a book about a pastor who fell yet led many to Christ before he died. Is a man judged by God by the last thing he does before he dies or by the whole sum of his life? -- Kevin A.

Dear Kevin: When Christians appear before the Lord at the judgment seat of Christ, all of our works done since we were saved will be judged. Note 1 Cor. 3:11-12--the foundation is Christ (thus Paul is referring to saved people), and we will be judged for how we have built on that foundation; that is, for all the works we have done as believers. Some works will be rewarded; some will cause us to lose rewards but not to lose our salvation (verses 14-15). So our entire Christian lives will be judged, not simply the last thing or things we do. 1 Cor. 4:5 also tells us that our Lord will find something for which to praise every believer.

23. (from LSO, Wednesday, May 7, 1997)

Subject: Is spanking o.k.?

Dear Dr. Ryrie: Is spanking an effective discipline, or is it physical abuse? -- Emilee M.

Dear Emilee: If you believe the Bible gives us correct instructions, then you have to acknowledge that spanking is one of the ways to discipline a child. Read Proverbs 23:13-14 which advises that some pain in discipline in the present may save from something worse in the future. Also, the rod (referring to a stick) is properly used in discipline according to Proverbs 13:24 and 29:15. Of course, any kind of discipline can be overdone, but we should not ignore the advice in these passages. In addition, children are to be trained by words (Proverbs 15:5, 24:32).

24. (from LSO, Tuesday, May 20, 1997)

Subject: How do I keep the Sabbath Day holy?

Dear Dr. Ryrie: How is the born-again believer to attempt to fulfill the commandment of keeping the Sabbath day holy? -- Ken F.