

Dear Ken: The Sabbath day was and still is Friday sundown to Saturday sundown. The Lord's day (Sunday) is not the Sabbath, and we observe the Lord's day rather than the Sabbath because that was the day our Lord rose from the dead. The New Testament does not give many specifics about observing Sunday, but here are some: 1.) Above all, remember it in our thoughts and activities as the day of His resurrection. 2.) Be a part of group worship (Heb. 10:25). 3.) Do your giving on Sunday (1 Cor. 16:2). 4.) Observe the Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7). Some throughout the Christian era have attempted to bring Sabbath regulations over onto Sunday. This would mean, among other things, no work (how could the early Christian slaves obey that?), no traveling more than about half a mile (many people today travel farther than that to go to church), and no cooking.

25. (from LSO, Tuesday, April 22, 1997)

Subject: Pastors paying Social Security tax

Dear Dr. Ryrie: I'm in my 9th month of ministry and am struggling with the Social Security issue. Should I opt out, or shouldn't I? Any suggestions or sources of information? -- Chip

Dear Chip: Private plans can sometimes produce better results than Social Security can. To opt out of Social Security and still provide for retirement, etc., means that you must have the discipline to systematically invest in some private plan or plans. You may need insurance to provide for your family in case of your death, as well as a retirement program for yourself. Social Security forces you to save regularly. Who knows what the economic condition of this country will be by the time you retire, and therefore, the stability of any private or public plan? But as long as the government controls the printing presses and the power to tax its citizens, it seems highly doubtful that Social Security will ever be abandoned, even if the fund itself runs out. If you are struggling with whether or not it's right for a Christian to get involved with this government program, that's the wrong question. While some believe they should never be involved in a government program because it restricts their ministries (as a Christian college ^{may} decide), that wouldn't be the true reason of using Social Security. The right question is: "What program can give you the best protection?", for it is biblical to provide for one's family (1 Tim. 5:8).

26. (from LSO, Thursday, March 22, 1997)

Subject: A Christian without a testimony

Dear Dr. Ryrie: I had a conversation about a Christian's testimony with one of the youth with whom I work. He said that most people talk about their great conversions but that he did not have a testimony because he had never done anything wrong. He feels he should be able to experiment a little with drugs, alcohol, etc., to be a little bad. I am an older Christian with a similar testimony but do not really know how to answer this, except to say that we have the best testimony of all. This apparently was not good enough for him. Can you share any insight on this? -- Bart H.

Dear Bart: Everybody who is saved has a testimony--to the grace of God. It takes just as much of His grace to save the "good" sinner as the sinner who has delved into a lot of sins. That young man should be so very thankful he never got engrossed in many sins so that he will never have those evil things not only in his past experience, but also in his memory. But now that he is a believer, he must realize that to go