

these videos any longer. Is there anything in the Word that speaks directly to this issue that I can discuss with members of my company should the opportunity present itself? -- Lyn T.

Dear Lyn: If we distanced ourselves from everything that had questionable origins, we probably would not be able to use many things which are useful. Did you know, for instance, that neckties were first worn because people thought that when tied around the neck, neckties would keep demons from getting into the orifices of the head? Do we conclude therefore that men should never wear neckties? *No, not for that claim at least.* From what I read, some alternative medicines do help some people, so why not use them? I doubt that people would connect reflexology or acupuncture with a false religion. Of course, if something clearly promotes a false religion by offering a way to heaven other than through Christ, that is a different matter.

9. (from LSO, Tuesday, April 15, 1997)

Subject: Why do bad things happen to good people?

Dear Dr. Ryrie: My husband and I go to a Christian service on Sunday. We try to have faith that God has a plan for everything in our lives; but lately, the problems have gotten out of hand. We can't take many more "bad" things happening to "good people." What can we do? -- Donna W.

Dear Donna: You're not alone. Many other believers suffer severe testings of all kinds. It is common to all to be tested (1 Cor. 10:13). There are at least four reasons for tests in the Scriptures. 1.) To prove the true Christian character of the persons being tested (1 Pet. 1:6-7). 2.) To teach us things we could not learn otherwise (1 Pet. 1:3-6). 3.) To increase our love for God (James 1:12). 4.) To strengthen our endurance (Rev. 2:3, 13). I think we always need to be sure that bad things are not happening to us because we are not doing what we know to be God's will as revealed in the Bible. I hope you are in a good, Bible-preaching church, for having mature Christians around you will help sustain you. You say that your problems have gotten out of hand. But remember, if the problems are not of your own making, they have not gotten out of His hand.

10. (from LSO, February 24, 1997)

Subject: What to say to a non-Christian who believes that Christians are historically not good people

Dear Dr. Ryrie: I am an Indonesian student studying at a university in Sydney. I once had a conversation with my landlord, who is a Communist, in which he gave me many reasons why he is not a Christian anymore. He feels that the most rude people in the world are in the Christian society and that colonialists damaged everything they encountered both environmentally and socially. As a Christian, I believe that colonialists behaved in a manner opposite to what the Bible teaches. What would be the best things to say to him? -- Aprison R.

Dear Aprison: First of all, a person cannot choose to cease being "a Christian anymore." If your landlord ever became a Christian, God has not removed him from His family. If the landlord is using Christian in the sense of not being Muslim or Jewish, for instance, then possibly he never received Christ as his personal Savior. For many, being a Christian is simply identifying with Christianity in contrast to being a Jew, for instance. But being a Christian in the biblical sense is identifying with Jesus Christ as one's personal Savior. As for Christians being rude and colonialists behaving badly, I am sure that is true