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blessing inc.†  
  
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Dr. Charles Ryrie  
3310 Fairmont #5D  
Dallas, TX 75201

Dear Charles,

Greetings from Vienna, Austria. I just returned from teaching a cults conference in Siberia. The new openness in Russia is truly a strategic opportunity, but we are not the only ones taking advantage of it. The Mormons, for example, have commissioned 5,000 missionaries for Russia and over 100,000 JW's met in Krakow last year!! We feel very privileged to have been here the past fourteen years - definitely an amazing decade! The changes in this part of the world are staggering.

For the past eight years I have been working on a massive research project regarding eternal security, rewards, and assurance. Prompted by numerous questions from the Christians in Romania, I found myself in need of rethinking my beliefs. One thing led to another until I finally wrote a comprehensive, integrated theology of eternal security and rewards called *The Reign of the Servant Kings: A Study of Eternal Security and the Final Significance of Man*.

We are all concerned about the "lukewarm" Christianity of the West. My time in Eastern Europe suggested that a contributing factor may be that Western Christians often do not live their lives with the view to the Great Future. Many have lost any sense of final accountability for their Christian lives. As you know, the issues of lordship salvation and the perseverance of the saints have become prominent in theological and practical discussion in recent years. This book is not specifically about the lordship salvation controversy, but it does deal extensively with Westminster Calvinism's doctrine of the perseverance of the saints and concludes, "Eternal security, yes! Perseverance, maybe."

A particular area of negligence in recent preaching seems to be in regard to eternal rewards. What is the final significance of human life? Why are we here? The answers to the questions, as you know, are in part, at least, related to the biblical doctrine of rewards. One day those who have been faithful to the King will have the immense joy

of sharing with him in the fulfillment of human destiny. A different fate, however, comes upon those who neglect their great salvation: loss and shame. This supplies much of the needed antidote to the antinomian fears concerning the doctrine of eternal security.

In these pages I have done my best to interact fairly with all of the major passages brought against the doctrine of eternal security and to respond to them in a way which incorporates some of the exegetical insights of both arminian and calvinistic theologians.

Charles, I am sending this to you in hopes that it will be a blessing to you and, if so, that you will recommend it widely. Thanks so much for your interest in our ministry over the years. May the Lord continue to bless you in His matchless grace as you press to the mark!

Your brother in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joseph C. Dillow". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Dr. Joseph C. Dillow  
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Austria

