

But *very few* of the Christian world are following their Master in a course of humble obedience, progressing in holiness and perfection of Christian character. Intemperance and licentiousness *are greatly increasing*, and *are practiced* to a large extent under the cloak of Christianity. This deplorable state of things is not because men are obedient to God's law, but because their hearts rise in rebellion to his holy precepts. {RH, March 4, 1875 par. 6}

The *sins of the popular churches are whitewashed* over. Many of the members indulge in the grossest vices and are steeped in iniquity. Babylon *is fallen* and has become the cage of every foul and hateful bird! The most revolting sins of the age *find shelter beneath* the cloak of Christianity. Many proclaim the law of God abolished, and *surely their lives are* in keeping with their faith. If there is no law, then there is no transgression, and therefore no sin; for sin is the transgression of the law. {4T 13.2}

Those who follow these blind leaders close the avenues of their souls to the reception of truth. They will not allow the truth with its practical bearings to affect their hearts. The largest number *brace their souls* with prejudice against new truths, and also against the clearest light which shows the *correct application of an old truth*, the law of God, which is as old as the world. The intemperate and licentious *delight* in the oft repeated assertion that the law of the ten commandments is not binding in this dispensation. Avarice, thefts, perjuries, and crimes of every description, *are carried on under the cloak* of Christianity. {RH, March 4, 1875 par. 14}

There is to be in the [Seventh-day Adventist] churches a wonderful manifestation of the power of God, but it will not move upon those who have not humbled themselves before the Lord, and opened the door of the heart by confession and repentance. In the manifestation of that power which lightens the earth with the glory of God, *they will see only something which in their blindness they think dangerous, something which will arouse their fears, and they will brace themselves to resist it. Because the Lord does not work according to their ideas and expectations they will oppose the work.* "Why," they say, "should we not know the Spirit of God, when we have been in the work so many years?"—RH Extra, Dec. 23, 1890.

The righteousness of Christ *is not a cloak* to cover unconfessed and *unforsaken* sin; it is a principle of life that transforms the character and controls the conduct. Holiness is wholeness for God; it is the entire surrender of heart and life to the indwelling of the principles of heaven. {DA 555.6}

This is an age of signal rejection of the grace God has purposed to bestow upon His people, that in the perils of the last days they may not be overcome by the prevailing iniquity, and unite with the hostility of the world against God's remnant people. *Under the cloak of Christianity and sanctification, far-spreading and manifest ungodliness will prevail to a terrible degree and will continue until* Christ comes to be glorified in all them that believe. In the very courts of the temple scenes will be enacted that few realize. God's people will be proved and tested, that He may discern "between him that serveth God, and him that serveth Him not." {11MR 85.4}

The so-called Christian world is to be the theater of great and decisive actions. Men in authority will enact laws controlling the conscience, after the example of the Papacy. Babylon will make all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. Every nation will be

involved. Of this time John the Revelator declares: {1MR 296.5}

Note: Here they would have us believe after the example of the papacy—during its 1260 years of rule, that this actually means by order of the papacy. Notice Rev. 17:17 “until the words of God shall be fulfilled”? Concerning papal rule they have been fulfilled for 1260 years. And Daniel confirms this view in 7:26. Now its time for the image by the evil, foolish, servants. Rev. 13:11-16; Matt. 24:48-25:13. And so does EGW SpM 1.4; GC 266.3; ST, February 8, 1910 par. 5.

The vision that Christ presented to John, presenting the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, is to be definitely proclaimed to all nations, people, and tongues. ***The churches, represented by Babylon, are represented as having fallen from their spiritual state to become a persecuting power against those who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.*** To John this persecuting power is represented as having horns like a lamb, but as speaking like a dragon. . . . {TM 117.4}

The Protestant churches, having received doctrines that the Word of God condemns, ***will bring, these to the front and force them upon the consciences of the people, just as the papal authorities urged their dogmas upon the advocates of truth in Luther's time.*** The same battle is again to be fought, and every soul will be called upon to decide upon which side of the controversy he or she will be found. {CTr 323.5}

The National Reform movement, exercising the power of religious legislation, will, when fully developed, manifest the same intolerance and oppression that have prevailed in past ages. Human councils then assumed the prerogatives of Deity, crushing under their despotic power liberty of conscience; and imprisonment, exile, and death followed for those who opposed their dictates. If popery or its principles shall again be legislated into power, the fires of persecution will be rekindled against those who will not sacrifice conscience and the truth in deference to popular errors. This evil is on the point of realization. {5T 712.1}

The peculiar work of the third angel has not been seen in its importance. God meant that His people should be far in advance of the position which they occupy today. But now, when the time has come for them to spring into action, they have the preparation to make. When the National Reformers began to urge measures to restrict religious liberty, our leading men should have been alive to the situation and should have labored earnestly to counteract these efforts. It is not in the order of God that light has been kept from our people--the very present truth which they needed for this time. Not all our ministers who are giving the third angel's message really understand what constitutes that message. ***The National Reform movement has been regarded by some as of so little importance that they have not thought it necessary to give much attention to it and have even felt that in so doing they would be giving time to questions distinct from the third angel's message. May the Lord forgive our brethren for thus interpreting the very message for this time.*** {5T 714.2}

The people need to be aroused in regard to the dangers of the present time. The watchmen are asleep. We are years behind. Let the chief watchmen feel the urgent necessity of taking heed to

themselves, lest they lose the opportunities given them to see the dangers. {5T 715.1}

The *National Reform movement*, that the *world and the church* have linked hands to bring about, *will manifest the same oppression, haughtiness, arrogance, and intolerance which have prevailed in past ages*. The powers of human councils *then* assumed the prerogatives of Deity, crushing under their despotic will, liberty of conscience and the right of individual responsibility; and imprisonment, exile, and death followed for all who opposed their dictates. {RH, January 1, 1889 par. 8}

As the Protestant churches reject the clear, Scriptural arguments in defense of God's law, they will long to silence those whose faith they cannot overthrow by the Bible. Though they blind their own eyes to the fact, they are now adopting a course which will lead to the persecution of those who conscientiously refuse to do what the rest of the Christian world are doing, and acknowledge the claims of the papal sabbath. {GC 592.2}

It is time for God's people to work as never before, because of the increase of wickedness. The God-fearing, commandment-keeping people should be diligent, not only in prayer, but in action; and this will bring the truth before those who have never heard it. The world is overborne with falsehood and iniquity, and those whom God has made the depositaries of his law, and of the pure religion of Jesus, must be determined to let their light shine. If they do nothing to disabuse the minds of the people, and through ignorance of the truth our legislatures should abjure the principles of Protestantism, and give countenance and support to the Roman fallacy, the spurious sabbath, *God will hold* his people who have had great light, *responsible* for their lack of diligence and faithfulness. *But if the subject of religious legislation is judiciously and intelligently laid before the people, and they see that through Sunday enforcement the Roman apostasy would be re-enacted by the Christian world, and that the tyranny of past ages would be repeated, then whatever comes, we shall have done our duty.* {RH, December 24, 1889 par. 4} {RH, March 9, 1911 par. 17}

But *today* in the *religious world* there are multitudes who, as *they* believe, *are working for the establishment of the kingdom of Christ as an earthly and temporal dominion. They desire to make our Lord the ruler of the kingdoms of this world, the ruler in its courts and camps, its legislative halls, its palaces and market places. They expect Him to rule through legal enactments, enforced by human authority.* Since Christ is not now here in person, *they themselves will undertake to act in His stead, to execute the laws of His kingdom.* The establishment of such a kingdom is what the Jews desired in the days of Christ. They would have received Jesus, had He been willing to establish a temporal dominion, to enforce what they regarded as the laws of God, and to make them the *expositors* of His will and the agents of His authority. But He said, "My kingdom is not of this world." John 18:36. He would not accept the earthly throne. {DA 509.2}{GC 587.1}{5T 712.1; 714-715.1}{GC 603.2} {TM 366.1} {2SP 14.1} {PP 176.2}