

# Ministers of Other Churches Will Be among Our Worst Enemies

**LETTER**—“The conference has invited two ministers from other churches, one Methodist and the other Presbyterian, to speak at our camp meeting this year at Deer Lodge, TN. It is being called a ‘Revival camp meeting.’

“I called the conference and they said it was all right. I then called the E.G. White Estate and they said there was nothing in the Spirit of Prophecy about inviting other ministers to preach to our people.”

## THE MINISTERS OF OTHER CHURCHES WILL BE AMONG OUR WORST ENEMIES

“Men need not the dim light of tradition and custom to make the Scriptures comprehensible. It is just as sensible to suppose that the sun, shining in the heavens at noonday, needs the glimmerings of the torchlight of earth to increase its glory. **The fables or the utterances of priests or of ministers are not needed to save the student from error. Consult the divine Oracle, and you have light.** In the Bible every duty is made plain, every lesson is comprehensible, able to fit men with a preparation for eternal life. The gift of Christ and the illumination of the Holy Spirit reveal to us the Father and the Son. The Word is exactly adapted to make men and women and youth wise unto salvation. In the Word is the science of salvation plainly revealed.”—*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, 391.

“**The ministers of the popular churches will not allow the truth to be presented to the people from their pulpits.** The enemy leads them to resist the truth with bitterness and malice. Falsehoods are manufactured. Christ’s experience with the Jewish rulers is repeated. **Satan strives to eclipse every ray of light shining from God to His people. He works through the ministers** as he worked through the priests and rulers in the days of Christ. Will those who know the truth join his party, to hinder, embarrass, and turn aside those who are trying to work in God’s appointed way to advance His work, to plant the standard of truth in the regions of darkness?”

“The third angel’s message, embracing the messages of the first and second angels, is the message for this time. We are to raise aloft the banner on which is inscribed: ‘The commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.’ The world is soon to meet the great Lawgiver over His broken law. This is not the time to put out of sight the great issues before us.”—*8 Testimonies*, 197.

“**There are ministers of the so-called orthodox churches traveling from place to place to war against Seventh-day Adventists,** and they make Mrs. White their textbook. **The scoffers of the last days are led on by these ministers professing to be God’s watchmen.**”—*1 Selected Messages*, 69.

“Those who honor the Bible Sabbath will be denounced as enemies of law and order, as breaking down the moral restraints of society, causing anarchy and corruption, and calling down the judgments of God upon the earth. Their conscientious scruples will be pronounced obstinacy, stubbornness, and contempt of authority. They will be accused of disaffection toward the government. **Ministers who deny the obligation of the divine law will present from the pulpit the duty of yielding obedience to the civil authorities as ordained of God.** In legislative halls and courts of justice, commandment keepers will be misrepresented and condemned. A false coloring will be given to their words; the worst construction will be put upon their motives.

“**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.”—*Great Controversy*, 592.

“**The Protestant world today see in the little company keeping the Sabbath a Mordecai in the gate. His character and conduct, expressing reverence for the law of God, are a constant rebuke to those who have cast off the fear of the Lord and are trampling upon His Sabbath;** the unwelcome intruder must by some means be put out of the way.

“The same masterful mind that plotted against the faithful in ages past is still seeking to rid the earth of those who fear God and obey His law. Satan will excite indignation against the humble minority who conscientiously refuse to accept popular customs and traditions. **Men of position and reputation will join with the lawless and the vile to take counsel against the people of God.** Wealth, genius, education, will combine to cover them with contempt. **Persecuting rulers, ministers, and church members will conspire against them. With voice and pen, by boasts, threats, and ridicule, they will seek to**

2 **overthrow their faith.** By false representations and angry appeals they will stir up the passions of the people. **Not having a ‘Thus saith the Scriptures’ to bring against the advocates of the Bible Sabbath, they will resort to oppressive enactments to supply the lack.** To secure popularity and patronage, legislators will yield to the demand for a Sunday law. Those who fear God cannot accept an institution that violates a precept of the Decalogue. On this battlefield comes the last great conflict of the controversy between truth and error. And we are not left in doubt as to the issue. Now, as in the days of Mordecai, the Lord will vindicate His truth and His people.”—*5 Testimonies*, 450-451.

“As the people of God approach the perils of the last days, Satan holds earnest consultation with his angels as to the most successful plan of overthrowing their faith. **He sees that the popular churches are already lulled to sleep by his deceptive power. By pleasing sophistry and lying wonders he can continue to hold them under his control.** Therefore he directs his angels to lay their snares especially for those who are looking for the second advent of Christ and endeavoring to keep all the commandments of God.

“*Says the great deceiver:* ‘We must watch those who are calling the attention of the people to the Sabbath of Jehovah; they will lead many to see the claims of the law of God; and the same light which reveals the true Sabbath reveals also the ministration of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary, and shows that the last work for man’s salvation is now going forward. **Hold the minds of the people in darkness till that work is ended, and we shall secure the world and the church also.**

“ ‘The Sabbath is the great question which is to decide the destiny of souls. We must exalt the sabbath of our creating. We have caused it to be accepted by both worldlings and church members; now the church must be led to unite with the world in its support. We must work by signs and wonders to blind their eyes to the truth, and lead them to lay aside reason and the fear of God and follow custom and tradition.

“ **‘I will influence popular ministers to turn the attention of their hearers from the commandments of God. That which the Scriptures declare to be a perfect law of liberty shall be represented as a yoke of bondage. The people accept their minister’s explanations of Scripture and do not investigate for themselves. Therefore, by working through the ministers, I can control the people according to my will.**

“ ‘But our principal concern is to silence this sect of Sabbathkeepers. We must excite popular indignation against them. We will enlist great men and worldly-wise men upon our side, and induce those in authority to carry out our purposes.’ ”—*Testimonies to Ministers*, 472-473.

“**The dignitaries of church and state will unite**

**to bribe, persuade, or compel all classes to honor the Sunday.** The lack of divine authority will be supplied by oppressive enactments. Political corruption is destroying love of justice and regard for truth; and even in free America, rulers and legislators, in order to secure public favor, will yield to the popular demand for a law enforcing Sunday observance. Liberty of conscience, which has cost so great a sacrifice, will no longer be respected. In the soon-coming conflict we shall see exemplified the prophet’s words: ‘The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.’ Revelation 12:17.”—*Great Controversy*, 592.

“It is impossible to describe the horror and despair of those who have trampled upon God’s holy requirements. The Lord gave them His law; they might have compared their characters with it and learned their defects while there was yet opportunity for repentance and reform; but in order to secure the favor of the world, they set aside its precepts and taught others to transgress. They have endeavored to compel God’s people to profane His Sabbath. Now they are condemned by that law which they have despised. With awful distinctness they see that they are without excuse. They chose whom they would serve and worship. ‘Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not.’ Malachi 3:18.

“**The enemies of God’s law, from the ministers down to the least among them,** have a new conception of truth and duty. Too late they see that the Sabbath of the fourth commandment is the seal of the living God. Too late they see the true nature of their spurious sabbath and the sandy foundation upon which they have been building. **They find that they have been fighting against God. Religious teachers have led souls to perdition while professing to guide them to the gates of Paradise. Not until the day of final accounts will it be known how great is the responsibility of men in holy office and how terrible are the results of their unfaithfulness.** Only in eternity can we rightly estimate the loss of a single soul. Fearful will be the doom of him to whom God shall say: Depart, thou wicked servant.

“The voice of God is heard from heaven, declaring the day and hour of Jesus’ coming, and delivering the everlasting covenant to His people. Like peals of loudest thunder His words roll through the earth. The Israel of God stand listening, with their eyes fixed upward. Their countenances are lighted up with His glory, and shine as did the face of Moses when he came down from Sinai. The wicked cannot look upon them. And when the blessing is pronounced on those who have honored God by keeping His Sabbath holy, there is a mighty shout of victory.”—*Great Controversy*, 639-640.

# Special Counsels to God's People Today

**"Truths have been committed to our trust more sacred than were ever imparted to mortals upon earth, yet we have not as a people been faithful to our trust.** Unfaithful Sabbathkeepers are the worst enemies the truth can have. If those who profess the truth would live it out, then the Lord would magnify His name among them, and make them a powerful people.

"The inhabitants of the earth are given to idolatry . . . **Sodom and Gomorrah will rise up in the judgment and condemn this generation,** for if they had been privileged with the light which now shines upon the inhabitants of the earth, they would have repented long ago.

**"God will have a separate and peculiar people.** Their faith is peculiar. Their prospects are peculiar and glorious, and **if they do not consider the heavenly inducement offered them of sufficient value to lead them to renounce the fashions of the world, when God rises up to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity, they must perish with them.** Please read Isaiah 26:21. James 4:4: 'Know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.' 1 John 2:15: 'Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.' **We are called upon in these perilous times to elevate the standard. It has been left to trail in the dust. The fashions of the world hold God's people in bondage.**

"Those who have really chosen God and heaven as their portion will be peculiar. **The sanctifying influence of the truth has separated them from the world, and they will have moral courage to carry out their faith,** and by their simple plainness of dress and holy living condemn the idolatry and extravagance of this age. Professed Sabbathkeepers who would advocate the wearing of . . . useless ornaments, no matter how high their profession, the truth has not had its sanctifying influence upon the heart. **They are not dead to the world. When the tree dies the leaves fall off.** There is just as wide a difference between the follower of Jesus Christ and the worldling, as there is between a tree clothed with its green foliage and a dead and leafless tree. The truth accomplishes a work for the receivers. It causes them to die to the world, and live unto God. Such can receive no satisfaction in adorning their heads with flowers, while they have a true sense of the sufferings of their Redeemer on account of their sins. His sacred brow was encircled with cruel thorns, which bruised His holy temples. **This thought should be enough to cause every true follower of Jesus to discard any useless ornaments** to decorate their bodies.

**"Some Sabbathkeepers so earnestly desire to have friendship with the world, that they mangle their feelings and make wretched work of following Christ.** They desire the approval of God and the friendship of the world too. **Such, I saw, would certainly lose heaven. They do not enjoy this world, therefore they lose**

**both. In these hours of probation all can choose life if they will. Their fruits will show their choice.** For a life of humble obedience here, God will grant the rich reward hereafter. He will accept of nothing but entire consecration. **A dreadful deception is upon many minds, even of Sabbathkeepers.** They have neglected to cherish and follow the light God has given them, and have been left completely deceived. Please read Matthew 7:21-23: **'Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven.** Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord have we not prophesied in Thy name? and in Thy name have cast out devils? and in Thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you; depart from Me, ye that work iniquity.'

**"Souls will come up to the day of God's visitation under a perfect deception. They had marked out a course for themselves. They did not let the Bible place the bounds for them.** They did not heed the exhortation, 'Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.'—2 Corinthians 6:17.

"I was shown that God is not slack concerning His promises, if His people will obey His requirements. He is faithful who hath promised. **The condition of our being received of God is, to separate ourselves from the world. The followers of Jesus and the world cannot unite.** Please read John 17:14: 'I have given them Thy Word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world.' John 15:18, 19: 'If the world hate you, ye know that it hated Me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own; but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.'

**"There is a disposition among some Sabbathkeepers to rejoice that they have truths that can be sustained by the word of God, and that the unbeliever cannot gainsay, and they rest satisfied.** They make no advancement in the divine life; their faith is not made perfect by works; they do not feel their lack of spirituality, but boast that they have the truth, and they sometimes advocate it in an unbecoming manner. They feel rich and increased with goods, and have need of nothing, and know not that they are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked. **What stronger delusion can deceive the human mind than that which makes us believe we are on the right foundation, and God accepts our works, when we are not conforming to His will, and when we mistake the form of godliness for the spirit and power thereof, supposing we need nothing when we need all things.** Please read James 1:27: 'Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.'

"What a work is before us! **Self-denial and the cross**

4 **were shown me as standing all along in the way of life.** Can we persevere in such a warfare as this? Grace is against nature, and the whole strength of self is opposed to the victory. Can we take up the cross and bear it after Jesus, and consent to be like Him who was tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin? **When the pleasures of the world come before us, we must renounce them instantly,** and prefer before these the favor of God and the cross of Christ. **And in this self-denying course we shall obtain victories, and in the end win eternal glory.** The unbelieving world were shown me, unwilling to submit to the claims and order of God's government. They refuse obedience to His will; they are at variance with their Maker, and their words and works are opposed to the principles and laws of His government. **Therefore we cannot enjoy, and be in harmony with, the friendship of the world, and not become estranged from God.**

"Amos 9:9, 10, was presented before me. **'For, lo, I will command, and I will sift the house of Israel among all nations,** like as corn is sifted in a sieve, yet shall not the least grain fall upon the earth. **All the sinners of My people shall die by the sword, which say, The evil shall not overtake nor prevent us.'**

**"God's people will be tested and proved. The plain and pointed testimony must act a prominent part in this work.** In these days of darkness and peril who is able to stand and speak the whole truth? **Multitudes of teachers prophesy smooth things. They see no special cause of alarm in the present condition of the professed people of God. The people are asleep, and the teachers are asleep.** They cry, Peace, peace, and the multitude that hear believe their report and are at ease. **This makes the necessity greater for faithful teachers to bear the pointed, faithful testimony.** The present is a time of scouring and purifying, a time of warfare and trial. **The house of Israel is being sifted,** even as corn is sifted in a sieve. **The chaff must be removed,** and it will require close work to separate the chaff from the kernels of grain. God's discerning eye will detect the smallest particle of chaff, and yet He will not cause to fall upon the ground the least kernel of grain."—*Review, November 26, 1861.*

**"Peculiar and rapid changes will soon take place,** and God's people are to be endowed with the Holy Spirit, so that with heavenly wisdom they may meet the emergencies of this age, and as far as possible counteract the demoralizing movements of the world. **If the church is not asleep, if the followers of Christ watch and pray, they may have light to comprehend and appreciate the movements of the enemy.**"—*6 Testimonies, 436.*

**"In this fearful time, just before Christ is to come the second time, God's faithful preachers will have to bear a still more pointed testimony** than was borne by John the Baptist. **A responsible, important work is before them; and those who speak smooth things, God**

**will not acknowledge as His shepherds.** A fearful woe is upon them."—*1 Testimonies, 321.*

**"Many reformers, in entering upon their work, determined to exercise great prudence in attacking the sins of the church and the nation.** They hoped, by the example of a pure Christian life, to lead the people back to the doctrines of the Bible. But the Spirit of God came upon them as it came upon Elijah, moving him to rebuke the sins of a wicked king and an apostate people; they could not refrain from preaching the plain utterances of the Bible,—doctrines which they had been reluctant to present. **They were impelled to zealously declare the truth and the danger which threatened souls. The words which the Lord gave them they uttered, fearless of consequences,** and the people were compelled to hear the warning. **Thus the message of the third angel will be proclaimed.**"—*Great Controversy, 606.*

**"The sin of ancient Israel was in disregarding the expressed will of God** and following their own way according to the leadings of unsanctified hearts. **Modern Israel are fast following in their footsteps,** and the displeasure of the Lord is as surely resting upon them."—*5 Testimonies, 94.*

**"There is great similarity between our history and that of the children of Israel.** God led His people from Egypt into the wilderness, where they could keep His law and obey His voice . . . **So, at this time, there is a people whom God has made the depositaries of His law.** To those who obey them, the commandments of God are as a pillar of fire, lighting and leading the way to eternal salvation. But unto those who disregard them, they are as the clouds of night. 'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.' Better than all other knowledge is an understanding of the Word of God. **In keeping His commandments there is great reward, and no earthly inducement should cause the Christian to waver for a moment in his allegiance.** Riches, honor, and worldly pomp are but as dross that shall perish before the fire of God's wrath.

**"The voice of the Lord bidding His faithful ones 'go forward' frequently tries their faith to the uttermost.** But if they should defer obedience till every shadow of uncertainty was removed from their understanding, and there remained no risk of failure or defeat, they would never move on at all. Those who think it impossible for them to yield to the will of God and have faith in His promises until all is made clear and plain before them, will never yield at all. Faith is not certainty of knowledge; it 'is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.' **To obey the commandments of God is the only way to obtain His favor. 'Go forward' should be the Christian's watchword.**"—*4 Testimonies, 27-28.*