

Revival of Slavery in the South* Under Sunday Law Pressure

Ellen G. White Comments as Compiled by Jerry A. Stevens
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[On November 20, 1895, at an interview with leading workers in Australia, Ellen White answered certain questions placed before her. The report of this interview was published by her son, J. E. White, about 1900, in *The Southern Work* [p. 69.1–3]. In this document for rather general distribution he wisely omitted a sentence concerning the revival of slavery. This statement is all in print except the one sentence in italics, upon which release is sought.—ALW.] [Additional expressions rendered in italics follow the treatment in RH April 6, 1911, par. 11, 12—JAS.]

Ellen G. White Statement Concerning Slavery {Ms 22a, Nov. 20, 1895, p. 4, in 2MR 299.1}

Question: “Should not those in the Southern field work on Sunday?” {2MR 299.2}

E. G. White Answer: If they do this, there is danger that as soon as the opposing element can get the slightest opportunity, they will stir up one another to persecute those who do this, and to pick off those whom they hate. *At present, Sundaykeeping is not the test. The time will come when men will not only forbid Sunday work, but they will try to force men to labor on the Sabbath. And men will be asked to renounce the Sabbath and to subscribe to Sunday observance or forfeit their freedom and their lives. But the time for this has not yet come, for the truth must be presented more fully before the people as a witness.* What I have said about this should not be understood as referring to the action of old Sabbathkeepers who understand the truth. They must move as the Lord shall direct them, but let them consider that they can do the best missionary work on Sunday. {2MR 299.3}

Slavery will again be revived in the Southern States; for the spirit of slavery still lives. Therefore it will not do for those who labor among the colored people to preach the truth as boldly and openly as they would be free to do in other places. Even Christ clothed His lessons in figures and parables to avoid the opposition of the Pharisees. When the colored people feel that they have the Word of God in regard to the Sabbath question, and the sanction of those who have brought them the truth, some who are impulsive will take the opportunity to defy the Sunday laws, and by a presumptuous defiance of their oppressors they will bring to themselves much sorrow. Very faithfully the colored people must be instructed to be like Christ, *to patiently suffer wrongs, that they may help their fellow men to see the light of truth.* {2MR 299.4}

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Question: Should not those in the Southern field work on Sunday? {SpM 21.1}

* The Southern states are the states generally regarded as the same as the former slave states: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia (*The Century Unabridged Dictionary: An Encyclopedic Lexicon of the English Language*, 8 vols., 1889, s.v. “state: Southern States” in vol. 7 [<http://www.global-language.com/century/>]), accessed January 12, 2010; cf. Colton’s 1861 Slave Map of Southern States (<http://www.sonofthesouth.net/slavery/slave-maps/coltons-slave-map.htm>), accessed January 12, 2010.

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