

Questions About What Bible Says To Do When Sabbath is Outlawed

By Pastor Ed Anderson

Does Scripture give instructions for what we're to do when the Sabbath observance is outlawed?

Answer:

Great question—and one that's becoming increasingly relevant in today's world. Let's explore it from a biblical, historical, and prophetic perspective.

Does Scripture Give Instructions for When Sabbath Is Outlawed?

While **no single verse** explicitly outlines “what to do when Sabbath is outlawed,” **Scripture and prophetic insight** paint a **clear picture** of how God's people are to respond **when religious liberty is taken away**, and **God's commandments are forbidden by law**.

1. Principle of Obedience to God Over Man

The foundational biblical response is found in:

“We ought to obey God rather than men.” — **Acts 5:29**

This principle was lived out by:

- **Daniel**, who continued to pray even when it was outlawed (Daniel 6).
- **The three Hebrews**, who refused to bow to the image, even on pain of death (Daniel 3).
- **The early apostles**, who continued preaching Christ despite threats (Acts 4:18–20; Acts 5:28–29).

In all these cases, **civil disobedience was not rebellion—but faithfulness**.

2. Fleeing for Safety—Jesus' Own Words

Jesus Himself prophesied a time of persecution:

“Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains...Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.” — **Matthew 24:16, 20**

This dual reference to **flight** and **Sabbath** suggests:

- God’s people **would still be observing Sabbath at the end.**
- They may **need to flee** (go into hiding or underground) when persecuted.

Modern application: When Sabbath is outlawed in the final crisis, Jesus gives us permission—even instruction—to **flee, prepare, and protect** both faith and life. This is not fear—it’s **faithful obedience** guided by Christ.

3. The End-Time Remnant Response (Revelation 13 & 14)

Revelation outlines a coming global enforcement of **false worship** (Revelation 13:15–17), including economic sanctions and eventually a death decree for those who do not comply.

But the remnant response is described:

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that **keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.**” — **Revelation 14:12**

This remnant is:

- **Faithful to Sabbath** even under pressure.
- **Enduring** patiently through persecution.
- **Trusting fully in Jesus**, not themselves.

4. Ellen White’s Counsel (Adventist Prophetic Insight)

In *The Great Controversy*, Ellen White offers inspired instruction:

“As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel’s message... will give up the faith. But God’s true people will heed the instruction: ‘*Come out of her, My people*’ (Rev. 18:4).” — GC 608–609

“When the leading churches of the United States, uniting upon such points of doctrine as are held by them in common, shall influence the state to enforce their decrees... then **Protestant America will have formed an image of the Roman hierarchy.**” — GC 445

What does she advise?

- **Country living** where possible (as persecution intensifies).
- **Secret gatherings**, much like the early church (underground if necessary).
- **Trust in divine protection**, not human systems.

So What Should We Do Now?

1. Prepare spiritually

- Study the Bible deeply.
- Learn to **stand alone** with Christ if needed.
- Teach your children to love truth.

2. Prepare practically

- Be ready to relocate if needed.
- Build **community ties** with fellow believers.
- Learn **skills** useful for off-grid or simplified living.

3. Share the message boldly while you can

- Now is the time to **preach the Sabbath, teach prophecy, and invite others to Christ** before doors close (John 9:4).

Final Thought

When Sabbath is outlawed, the command is **not to compromise**, but to **stand**, flee if necessary, and remain faithful. The Bible doesn't give a survivalist manual, but it does give a **prophetic map, unshakable promises, and the living presence of Christ**.

"Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer... be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." — **Revelation 2:10**