

Chapel, October 10, 1925

Robert H. Wright.

I want to talk to you this morning on a continuation of what I had to say yesterday morning and in connection with that I want to give you the college's attitude toward church attendance and Sunday School. I hope you paid attention to what I had to say yesterday, because, in a measure, it laid the foundation for what I want to say this morning. Under the form called the law down in the human life as the motive power lies the spirit life. Out of the heart come the issues of life. Out of the spirit come the real problems that confront us and the real tasks that we undertake. It is the spirit life of the individual that is around this physical body that I have and that physical body is just temporary, it grows to maturity, stays for a while, and goes back into the dust from whence it came, but the soul goes on and on and on forever. The real person is not this physical man, but it is the spirit life that enriches the physical, so in its final analysis it is most important that we keep our spirit life clean and pure and in the right path. Out of this spirit life comes the physical activities. The spiritual man is the man that lives on. It is, therefore, of most importance that we keep the spirit life what it should be. If we will guard our spiritual lives, our physical lives will be the very best we can make them. True happiness to the physical man comes from living the right kind of spiritual life. The life more abundant is the spiritual life, but it gives also a more abundant physical life. It is, therefore, exceedingly important to you as an individual that you live the right kind of spiritual life and the organization to help you do that, especially organized for that purpose is the church. The organization in this college is the Y.W.C.A., a non-denominational organization, but the organization in this country is what we call the church.

This is a state school. Some people have said that state schools are non-religious. Maybe they are, I hope not. They are non-denominational, they are non-sectarian, but the state includes all the folks in it. It is, therefore, as much religious as our people are religious, and I hope that means that a state school

is very much of a Christian organization. What is the attitude of this college toward you and your church life? Well, this college wants you to go to church. It wants you to go to church every Sunday while you are here, and it wants you to join a Sunday School and attend that Sunday School regularly. The sooner you connect yourself up with one of the local churches, the better for your spiritual life, your spiritual opportunities. If you did not go to Sunday School last Sunday, I want you to go tomorrow, and if you did go last Sunday, I want you to go tomorrow. Join a Sunday School at once and go to Sunday School every Sunday you are in Greenville, and when Sunday School is out, stay to church. I am going to tell you which Sunday School to join and which church to join. I am not going to call any church by name. You are a member of some church at home. I hope you are. If you are not a member, your family belongs to some church at home. They are associated in some way with some church. That is the church for you to go to here. Do not misunderstand me, young women, the college is not requiring you to go to Sunday School or church. I do not believe you can drive people into Heaven. I may be wrong, but I believe if I were running a denominational college, I would leave them free to go or not to go. The person who tries to go to Heaven to get out of Hell is pretty sure to go to Hell. You can't get to Heaven by just trying to dodge the other place. This college is not trying to make you go to church, but we want you to go for your sakes. We want you to go to Sunday School and we want you to go to Church, and we want you to go to the church and Sunday School and church to which you belong, or to which your family belongs. It does not make a bit of difference to this college what church that is. I believe that of the Christian churches, nearly every denomination is represented in this town, and I want to urge you with all the earnestness that I have to continue to live, as I trust you started before you left home, the kind of spirit life that will help you to grow and to make the most possible out of your individual life. We need that now. The world is torn to pieces. The religious world is literally torn to pieces as it has not been torn in over a century and people are talking about modernism, fundamentalism, and they don't know a bit more about

it that I do and I know very little, but they are talking about it all the time and they are taking sides - like a boy talking to me the other night down on the streets about the case in Rockingham. He was very emphatically on one side and I said why do you take that position. He said it is always so *****

Don't you think so, Mr. Wright?" I told him that I did not know enough about it to be able to say. The world is just like that boy on religion. They are taking sides before they know the truth and you are going to see while you are away from home all kinds of religions, and you are going to face them with people very emphatically on one side or the other, but they know very little about why they are on one side or the other, and for that reason I want you to go to your own church and to gather the truth -- the spiritual truth as God will give it to you if you will ask him in the right spirit.

Many of you are here for the first time from home and your parents, no doubt, are very uneasy about you for fear you will be ruined with evolution. Well, it won't hurt you. The little bit we have, such as it is, won't hurt anybody. The church is torn all to pieces on the question of evolution and the church hasn't even touched the thing that they are talking about. They are talking about Darwin and they don't even know that Darwin was trying to explain evolution and not to teach evolution. They don't even know that much about it, much less the fundamental problems that underly much of this fuss about it. The people who are making the most fuss don't even know what Darwin thought. No, I am not going to talk about evolution this morning. I may sometime, but the thing that I want to get to you this morning is this, that many of these things that are coming into your life will come much more rapidly in college because you are here with people from all over the state and out of the state and people with various ideas, people with various religions and beliefs and you are going to come into contact with these things, and the desire of this college is that you hold fast to the truth and that you pray God's truth to make you free, that your spirit life may be the kind of spirit life that Jehovah meant for you to live. That is the earnest desire of all in authority in your college, and that is the thing that I want to get to you this morning. Gather God's truth

and follow it regardless of what others may say, think or do, for God's truth will give you real freedom.