

Chapel, October 15, 1925

Robert H. Wright,

The Y.W.C.A.

I want to talk to you the few minutes that are left this morning about the Young Women's Christian Association, and I hope you will give me your careful attention. As I told you last week, our college being a state institution, is in no sense of the word a denominational school, but we are just as religious as the people who come to our institution are religious, and that means that the college is a Christian organization, even though it is a state institution. The Young Women's Christian Association is the religious organization of the students in this college. If you want your life to count for the most, as I tried to bring out to you last week, you must give attention to the spirit man.

I have been very, very much pleased with the religious spirit of the students of this college. From the very beginning we have had a wonderful spirit -- religious in the truest sense of the word -- a religious spirit in the student body of this college. This organization belongs to the college, to the student body of the college.

The Y.W.C.A. will put on a campaign this week for membership. I hope you will join. It helps one to line himself up early in his college life with the influences that help to make one grow better, with that influence that works in spirit life of the student body and of the individual student. The active Y.W.C.A. worker who has the spirit that is back of that organization almost always stays out of trouble. The girl who resists that kind of influence is the girl who very often gets into trouble and always says "I don't know why". This is your organization, you run it and you run it for the spiritual development of the student body, but I want to tell you we all are interested in it, and we all hope for it the greatest possible success. Line up with the right kind of spiritual-minded people in the Y.W.C.A..

There come times in our lives, whether we be in college or whether we be out in the world, when temptations come, and they come pretty strong at times, and our power to resist those temptations depends in large measure upon the spirit life we have been living in our quiet every day way. And if we have grown strong spiritually, we will be able to resist; and if we have not grown strong spiritually, we may yield. A life lived honorably and absolutely above reproach may be ruined by an act at any time during life. We have seen people who have lived the right kind of life apparently who have gone on and the world has said nice things about them, who have been, apparently, influences for good and one mis-step and they are gone, gone in the estimation of their fellow-men, and gone forever. The spirit life was not strong enough to resist and the person pays the penalty. O, I don't think any of you young women are going to do anything to disgrace you, but if you grow strong here, when you go away from here, out somewhere in North Carolina to teach school in a community that you know not, where temptations and temptations are all around you, if you have grown strong here, you will have no trouble there. But if you have failed to grow strong there, you may have plenty of trouble there. O, it may be only of a social nature, but a social matter may be enough to ruin you. Statistics that we have been gathering for a few years past with reference to the students who have finished the course here and gone out into the state to teach are very complimentary to our students. We haven't had as high as five per cent of failures, and the larger part of that five percent are not professional failures. I mean they have been failures on the part of girls who do not know how to make their adjustments in human society instead of failures in actual class room work. If you will line up with the Y.W.C.A. and be an active Y.W.C.A. worker you will probably have no trouble in making your social adjustments.

I don't want you to join the Y.W.C.A. on that basis. It will help you in every way. I want you to go into it with the spirit, the real spirit of

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service./ The real spirit to get into your life the kinds of things that will help you to grow and be strong . Go there for spiritual reasons. If you go there for any other, it won't be of any service to you. Go there because you want to line yourself up with the Christian workers in your college. It will please your parents at home. I don't believe we have a student here whose parents will object to your joining. Of course, if we have, I would not think of asking you. I want this to be absolutely voluntary, but I am talking to you about it because I know how valuable it is in one's life to be a Christian worker in college. I was an active Y.M.C.A. worker, and I got as much out of that as I got out of any course I took in the University. I got an insight that I could not get anywhere else, and I am sure you will do the same thing if you will join the Y.W.C.A. in our college.