

President Wright, Chapel, October 15, 1926

Y.W.C.A.

Ps. 11

We have in the college a few organizations. The Student Government Association, I think you understand pretty thoroughly about that. The Athletic Association, I hope many of you may join. And we have a religious organization-- non-denominational, open to membership to all students in the college -- The Young Women's Christian Association. The first week you were here I said something to you about the development of your religious life. You ought to join the Young Women's Christian Association. I understand the campaign is on this week. You cannot make the most out of your life, young women, if you neglect the religious side of your life. I didn't select this passage of scripture this morning with a view of making a talk to you about the Y.W.C.A. But there is in this chapter and in almost every chapter of the Bible something that will help you in your spiritual life. "If the foundation ~~is~~ destroyed, what can the righteous do<sup>o</sup> in this world as we have it today, with all that we are doing to pull one away from the real foundations of life, with the questioning that is going on, (and you understand my position on that)? There are certain great fundamental principles that run through life that are just as eternal as God Himself, because they are God's great principles. One of those is the religious life of the individual. It is absolutely fundamental. Upon it every civilization that hopes to be of service and to be permanent must be founded. If that is destroyed, what can the righteous do? What can right minded men and women do?

Now, someone will say, and no doubt has already said time and time again -- "Do I have to join?" No you do not. "Do I have to go to the Y.W.C.A. meetings?" No, you do not. "Do I have to go to church?" No, you do not. "Do I have to join the Sunday School?" No you do not. The logical question following that is, Do I have to be religious? Yes, you do, because that is God's plan. And if you are religious, and you are, then if you neglect that part of your nature, you cannot develop the right kind of human being out of yourself. It is absolutely fundamental. You do not have to join any of the religious organizations so far as the college is

concerned. There is no requirement of that kind. I want you to thoroughly understand that, but you cannot very well develop the religious life within yourself unless you associate yourself with others who are trying to develop the same kind of life. I should like for you to get that, as it is one of the great principles of life. A person to make the most out of himself must associate himself with people who are trying to make the most out of their lives along the same line. An engineer may be a good engineer, and not be associated with other engineers, but he can never attain the true greatness that he ought to attain unless he keeps himself in touch with other engineers and the engineering business. You may be a religious person and develop without joining any of these societies, but it is much more difficult.

There is another great principle of life and that is that we get out of life in proportion to the amount that we put into it. That is true with reference to any line of activity. You cannot develop your religious life by shutting it up, because you must use it. The man gets most who gives most. The man has most who spends most. I don't mean in your bank account, I don't mean in worldly goods and things temporal. In the proportion we use the talents that God has given us in that proportion they develop and we have more. "It is more blessed to give than to receive", because in the giving the giver receives more than the gift given. That is unquestionably true in spiritual life. Therefore, if you wish to develop your religious nature, you must use it, and the college has an organization that is absolutely non-denominational. You can join it whether you are a member of any church or not. It is a religious organization that is strictly non-denominational. It is here in this college to enable you to develop your religious life. I earnestly desire, as far as I can put it, that you develop your spiritual life, and if you can develop it best in the Y.W.C.A., then, by all means, you ought to join the Y.W.C.A. Let me say this, joining the Y.W.C.A. will not develop your spiritual life. If you simply have membership and are not active in it, it will not develop you. You had just as well not be in it. In fact, I think you would be better off

out of it. But if you want to make the most out of your spiritual life, join a religious organization and work. Give of yourself and of your time and you will receive more than a hundredfold in return. When these young women come to see you, I want you to deal with it conscientiously. Please understand, I am not telling you to join the Y.W.C.A.. The college is not requiring you to do anything along that line. I want you to understand that, but if you want to make the most out of your life, it seems to me here is your opportunity from a religious standpoint. Jesus told us, "My yoke is easy and My burden is light". He meant by that that every human being will have to wear a yoke of some kind, and if you do not wear the yoke of righteousness, you must wear the yoke of sin, and the person who wears the yoke of sin will find that the burden is heavy in comparison to the person who lives the right kind of life. That is a universal truth regardless of whether you be Jew, Greek or Gentile, whether you be a member of this church or that church. We have to carry certain burdens. The burden of sin is a heavier burden on one than the burden of right living. A clear conscience, a realization of the fact that one has lived aright makes a braver man or a braver woman in comparison to the conscience that realizes that one has not lived aright. The consciousness of sin makes one a coward, makes one afraid. Along with sin comes fear that something is going to happen and that yoke is heavy in comparison to the yoke of freedom that comes from right living.

The Y.W.C.A. is the religious organization that is trying to help us to put on the right kind of yoke religiously speaking and to live the right kind of life. This association has done wonderful work in the college. We are proud of it. It has meant a great deal to many a girl who has come here. It has meant more than we know how to tell you. Those girls sacrificed a part of their vacation to come back and be of service to you, and they got joy from doing it. It is the spirit of service, wanting to be of some service to some one else, the spirit that makes one want to do something for a fellow-man.

If you possibly can, join the Y.W.C.A.

President Wright, October 27, 1926

CHAPEL

It is a distressing situation when it comes to spending practically ten months of each year writing to ambitious young women or their parents and telling them that we cannot take them into college. We are going to promise over a hundred more than we can take. Whenever you find that you cannot come back, which means whenever you find that you do not want to come back, come to Miss Edmonds' office and let her know. Any young woman can go to college today if she really wants to go. I mean that literally. The dormitories of the colleges of this country are not going to be closed, on account of financial conditions, to any ambitious boy or girl in America. The thing that is closing the dormitories to young women at this place is typical of most of the colleges, and that is simply the fact that we are so small that we cannot take them because of a lack of space. If there is a young woman in this college who is ambitious to make the most possible out of her life and who is willing to make the sacrifices that are necessary to carry on the work, all she has to do is to behave herself and make good marks and somebody will help her. I will see to it that they do, perhaps do it myself.

Some years ago it was told all over North Carolina that I sent a girl away from this place because she lacked five dollars of having enough money to pay her expenses. Some one came to me and said, I want to know if that is the truth. "No," I said. He said, Well, you know they are telling it before all the Women's Clubs in North Carolina, "don't you mean to do anything about it?" I said, "No, I never have been able to find a truth that could catch a lie. The lie always has five minutes start of the truth. I am going to let the women do what they will." The truth didn't catch the lie, but the lie created such an impression on the women that they organized and said, "We will give them an endowed scholarship, so that can't happen again. Couldn't go to college because she lacked five dollars of having money enough, and the President of the college sent her away because she didn't have the five dollars. Any young woman who has the right spirit and the right determination

and who is willing to work will never be turned away from any college in North Carolina because of a lack of funds. They will find some way to help that girl. The world is ready and anxious to help the youth of today who wants to help himself, and the time is right now in front of us when the teachers of America are going to do more in shaping the destiny of the next generation than any other one body of people. Why should I teach? Some one has asked that question; because I want to be of service to my fellow-man, because I want my life to be worth something to the boys and girls of today, because I love young people, because I want to spend my life helping young people come up aright and get right ideals and correct principles, see the right kind of visions and be willing to make the necessary sacrifices to accomplish the things that are worth while in life. If I love those things, then there is no better place for me to be of service than in the school room. If it is dollars and cents that you are working for, then you had better go somewhere else. Work in a gold mine to get gold, but work with human minds to be kept human. Work with my fellow-man that I may help to make the world a better place for human beings to live. You cannot measure that in dollars and cents. Do you want to be of real service to growing young people, and I believe you do, then take the training that is offered in this college and go out into the state willing, yea, anxious to serve, and I want to tell you that you will get the greatest possible reward for your services. All of it will not come back to you in money, but it will come back to you in things that money cannot buy, things that are worth more than dollars and cents. It is casting your bread upon the waters and receiving it back after many days. You know that thought back of that was this, when the Nile was overflowing they would sow the wheat on the water as the water was settling down on the ground. The wheat would settle down with the water and then spring up and give the people an abundant harvest of wheat. That is the thought back of that expression, "Cast your bread upon the waters and it will come back to you after many days". Cast your bread upon the waters of human life. Cast the training that this college has given you, your aims and your purposes out upon the sea of human life, and let it sprout

up in those young lives and grow to manhood and womanhood, and it will come back to you in a way that is worth more than all the money in this world. It is that that makes me want to be a teacher, and I believe it is that that makes you want to ~~me~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ teach the youth of our state.