

Greenville, N. C. Sept. 29th -- Dr. Robert H. Wright,
president of East Carolina Teachers College, in a clear and forceful
manner clearly outlined the college's policy and attitude toward
religion and the spiritual development of its students. His
speech was in part as follows:

As is my custom on the first Saturday of each fall term
I make a talk to you young women on the subject of religion. I do
this because I want you to get a clear conception of this college
and its attitude towards matters spiritual.

To start with, ours is a state institution and in the
state institutions we are not supposed to teach denominationalism.
The constitution of the United States, the constitution of our
state, the fundamental law of government under which we live is
based in a large measure on the separation of church and state.
This school, therefore, being a state school does not use its
influence in any way, shape or form to get you to attend any
particular church. You have your religious freedom if you are a
student in this institution.

There is, however, another side to it that I feel should
be called to your attention. The state is exceedingly anxious through
the public school system and other educational institutions, through
its laws and the operation of its government to develop every human being
in this country into the very best possible citizen. While church
and state are separated officially, as a matter of fact, the state
includes all of the churches. Just the nature of the thing makes it

so.

Now if the state includes all the churches and if the state wants to help make the best possible citizen of each child born in this country then it is a vital interest to the state that each individual be given an opportunity to develop so as to make the finest possible type of citizen. That cannot be done unless the individual develops his spirit life.

The foundation of this republic is laid in this one great book called the Bible. This government is founded upon the laws of Jehovah as revealed in his written word and while the state does not in any way interfere with the various and sundry ways of worshipping Jehovah it does protect the citizens and encourages them to worship.

We do not require you to join a Sunday school but we urge you to connect yourself with one of the religious bodies of this community. For that reason the college allows the students to go regularly to the morning worship and not only allows but really and truly urges you to go. If you happen to belong to one of the churches that carries on a Sunday School we urge you to join it and to be a regular attendant. The churches in Greenville are always glad to see you and they are putting themselves out to provide the necessary space and the necessary teaching force to see that you have the opportunity to study the word of God in the Sunday schools and in the churches of the community and I want to urge you with all the earnestness I can to join one of these Sunday schools and to go to Sunday school every Sunday and to go on time. I want to urge you to study the lesson before you go, to study the word of God and become acquainted with his law that you may shape your life in keeping

thereto.

Now I want to tell you what church to go to. You belong to some church at home, or your family belongs to some church. Find that church in Greenville and go to that church. If you are a Baptist at home, be a Baptist here; if you are a Presbyterian at home, be a Presbyterian here; if you are an Episcopalian there, be one here; Christian there, be one here, and so on clear through the whole list of churches.

There are forms of organizations throughout this land, working in the high schools and colleges trying to bring people out of the church and trying to make them infidels. It has not reached us yet. They are teaching that the religion the people believe in is a myth. They are trying to make one believe that there is no God. And there are a few little sap heads who think it is something wonderful to take that position. No human being could actually go out at night and cast his eyes to the heavens as David evidently did when he wrote that beautiful Psalm, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge." No human being can look up at the stars and not realize that there is a great guiding power somewhere. There is not a sane human being on the face of the earth who does not have some kind of a religion. To say that I have no religion is to declare that I have no sense; I am a fool. Religion is a part of every individual.

A lot of spiritual things I do not understand and the same is true of a lot of human things. I do not see how it is that I can

take a box and turn a few knobs and hear a noted singer up in Pittsburgh. I do not know how it is that the voice of a human being can be heard all around the earth, but we know it is actually done almost every day. I do not know why it is that the voice of Jehovah can be picked up by every human being all over the earth nor do I understand that my thoughts and words are broadcasted and picked up by Jehovah. After all it is the spirit life that counts.

I want to ask you this morning, you who are away from home for the first time, to make up your mind this morning that you are going to live the kind of a life that will help to make of you the best possible type of young woman and you cannot do that without working at it.

You are going to get homesick tomorrow and I hope you do. I hope you love that home so much you will miss it tomorrow because if you love your home it is a good sign. Go to church, come to the Young Women's Christian Association tomorrow night, write a love letter to Mother tomorrow and if you cannot hold it in any longer get up to the lavatory and cry it full, but have back bone enough and think enough of the home folks to stick to it and work out your own solution and religion will help you more in that than all the books and all the teaching we can do for you.