

September 27, 1928

Yesterday morning I told you that I had selected what I read in your hearing from the first chapter of Proverbs because of two statements it contained and then I talked to you about one of those statements. The other statement was the last verse I read, "My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not." The two thoughts that I wanted to discuss with you are: "My son, hear the instruction of thy father and forsake not the law of thy mother" and "My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not."

You are going to be tempted all during your college career and then you are going to be tempted and tried even more severely after you leave college. Solomon gave some splendid advice though if history is true, Solomon did not always do the things he advised others to do. But that is no reason why you and I should not live up to high standards. Somebody tells you about college standards. They say, "Oh, you do not have to do that or they will not make you do this." My daughter, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not. (I say my daughters because I am speaking to you young women.)

Then the passage which I read you this morning tells what happens to the person who is not willing to follow after this lesson. The writer is telling what will happen if we disregard these things, how people will laugh at you, how you will be left to your own devices, how you will pay for it and be left in bitter anguish in your later days and there will be no help then. I have seen not one but a number

of students who have said, "If I had just known this. I do not know what made me do this; I just can't stand it." And yet they had to go through with it. They had broken some regulation of the college that made it necessary to send them home. But there was no help then just as Solomon says.

Young friends, there is not but one way to make an absolute success of human life, there is not but one way to really and truly accomplish life's purpose and it is found in obeying the law of the mother, the precepts of the father, and refusing temptations when they come. It is living a clean, straight, upright life. It pays. Of course, you could not live a life on the basis of whether it pays because if you undertake it on that basis you cannot live that kind of a life. But live a clean upright life because you want to be clean and upright. It is casting bread upon the water and it is coming back to you fifty or a hundred fold. Some will say, "Oh, I have heard that all my life; I have heard those things before. I know I can go out and do this little thing and get by with it." Maybe you can but the penitentiary is full of people who tried to do that kind of a thing. It is going away from one's higher purpose to something that is lower.

You and I are living today right in the midst of one of the world's greatest revolutions. There is no question about that. The whole social order throughout the entire world is undergoing change. You know and I know that there are things in life that are not what they ought to be. We want to change them and that is all right. It is much easier just to find fault with what we have and to head away somewhere else and not know where we are going. It is like the old Negro when the bear got after

him and a man asked him where he was going. Sam said, "I aint a gwine no whar, I am coming from somewhar." And it seems to me that what we have today is like that. We are coming away from somewhere but do not know where we are going.

There was a law in North Carolina that by statute a man could whip his wife if he used a stick the size of his hand. I am glad that day has passed. There was a time in the history of this world that when a woman married she lost her property. The husband could will it to anyone he pleased just because he was married to her. There was law after law like that. And now, of course, we are breaking down those things. We are coming from somewhere and I wonder if we know where we are 'gwine'. The thing for us to do is to know if we are heading for somewhere. Do not move until you see that you are going in the right direction.