

September 28, 1929

I read in your hearing this morning, young friends, two passages of scripture from the Gospel of St. John that I want to call to your attention. "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God." And in the sixth chapter of this Gospel we are told that "It is the spirit that quickeneth". It is the spirit that really gives life.

Every human being on this earth is religious. There are a few people who claim that they are not religious but they make a religion of being not religious. Every natural human being in this world is by nature religious in his attitude. I do not say he is Christian. I do not say he worships the Jehovah the people of America worship but he is religious. He worships something. God in creating the human family has made us mental, physical and spiritual and we cannot get away from it even if we want to get away from that fact.

Any man who walks out at night and looks up in the heavens and sees the multitude of stars above, and if he is acquainted with a little bit of astronomy and realizes that this world of ours is in a solar system realizes that there are worlds and worlds and worlds beyond the one on which we live cannot help but ^{realize} realize that it must be somewhere a creative force that has put all of this into operation. If he looks up in the heavens with the spirit of Jehovah in his heart he can say with the Psalmist, "The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament showeth his handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech and night unto night uttereth wisdom. There is no speech nor language where Thy voice is not heard."

God rules all of the universe. God rules over this earth of ours.

God lives in the hearts of men and women. He is everywhere. You cannot get away from that side of human life and God has told us through this book we call the Bible, through nature and all the laws that control nature around us, through the human heart and its yearning and longing for things that are higher and nobler and better. God has told us that He is love. God has told us through our souls that he wants us to make the most possible out of our lives. He wants us to realize that he is a father and as a father loves his sons and daughters He loves us as human beings.

It behooves us therefore as human beings to keep ourselves in the best physical condition to do our daily work because the human body is the home of the human soul, at least the temporary home. It is the abiding place of your spirit. It, therefore, becomes one of our religious duties to keep ourselves in good physical condition. God when he put man on the earth gave as one of his first commands, "Be fruitful and multiply and subdue the earth."

But we have not yet subdued it. To me it means to find out God's laws and to line up my life in keeping with God's laws. It does not mean for me to pray to Jehovah to make an exception of his rules and regulations to make an exception in my case but it does mean to pray to make me so that I will want to conform to his laws. It means to pray that "Thy will not mine be done". It helps me keep my life in keeping with Jehovah's plan. And to subdue the earth means to use my brain and you to use your brain to find out the laws that God is operating this great world of ours on and for that reason science is not in conflict with religion but science is and should be one of religion's great handmaids, one of religion's best workers and it is through science that we find out the laws of God. I believe through science we are subduing the earth.

A multitude of things are being found out that we knew nothing about a few years ago. A multitude of things are being done today that we used to think were miracles. How a person can sit in his home and by turning two

little nobs can pick up the voice of a woman singing in New York or Pittsburg, I do not understand. How the radio works I do not understand it but I do know this that here people are broadcasting and throwing their voices out on the air and that somewhere almost instantaneously their voices can be picked up 500 or 1000 miles away. Jehovah is broadcasting and if your life is so organized that you can tune in you can catch in your individual life the messages of God. And on the other hand, every thought and every deed of the human being is more or less broadcasted and is picked up by Jehovah and everything we do, everything we say and everything we think is being picked up by Jehovah.

It is a wonderful age to live in because we know more of God's laws than we have ever known before. In addition to this development that has come about primarily by the activities of the human brain there is another side of human life. It is the spirit after all that quickeneth. It is the spirit after all that gives real life to the individual. God is a spirit and they who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth. You are going to be teachers practically all of you. It is the spirit that you carry with you into the school room that is going to be at the very foundation of all you do. The little child is going to judge you not by the words and actions of your life so much as by the spirit that actuates you and the spirit in your life is going to enter into his life and cause it to grow or to wither.

The state of North Carolina has created this institution for the sole purpose for training people to train the youth of our state. A state is not a religious organization. A state is made up of the people who live within its borders but the state of North Carolina is a combination of folks who are religious. It has recently been determined in the courts of our state that the person who does not believe in God his testimony does not mean anything in the courts of North Carolina. It makes no difference what church you are a member of but the state is concerned in whether you believe in God or not. That

decision I referred to was made by a judge in the supreme court in this state this summer. It was in the newspapers and it has met with almost universal approval. North Carolina is a commonwealth that believes in God, then what should be the state's attitude toward the young women who go to school here. I think I know the attitude of the state. I know the attitude of this college. I do not care what denomination you are a member of, so far as the college is concerned it makes no difference whether you are a Jew or a Gentile, a Catholic or a Protestant and if a Protestant it makes no difference which branch of the Protestant church you belong to. But it does make a difference whether you believe in God.

I urge you students to develop the spiritual life while in college and in order to do that the college requests that you join some Sunday school if you are a member of a church that has a Sunday School. Do not go to the Sunday School of your friend but go to the Sunday School of your choice whichever one it is. Go to Sunday School tomorrow and join and stay for the morning worship of the church you join. In other words, young friends, I am requesting that you make a church home of your choice while you are in school here. As a member of their Sunday School and as an attendant on their eleven o'clock service the people of this community want you. Attend Sunday School and church service tomorrow. The Y. W. C. A. has provided a place for you to meet and go together. Develop your spirit life. Sometimes a girl when she gets away from home and goes to college says I can drop all of this now; I can take a rest from it. You cannot do that. Growth comes from using; growth comes from cultivating your spirit life.

The Y. W. C. A. has two services every week. They are going to have a service in this auditorium tomorrow evening at 6:30. They have asked me to conduct that service for them. I shall be here. I hope you will come. From time to time they have speakers from out of town and sometimes they have the

various ministers in town to conduct the service. The Y. W. C. A. is a non-denominational association. It is Christian and for all denominations.

You have the opportunity here in your college and in the churches of this community to develop your spirit life and I sincerely hope you will not leave anything undone to help you develop the largest and fullest spiritual life. Jesus said he knew that there were some who did not believe and that is true in any large community. Judas Iscariot did not believe. There is always someone who kicks; there is always someone on the other side.

"A good thing to remember,
And a better thing to do.
Is to work with the construction gang,
And not the wrecking crew."

I hope every girl in college this year will work with the construction gang and not with the wrecking crew. If you work with the wrecking crew sometime you will be wrecked.

May God in his richest fullness see to it that there is not one in this student body of fine young women who will be lost this year. Fill your souls with the spirit of Jehovah and work for those things in life that are worthwhile.

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