

CHAPEL , October 8, 1930

-- President Wright

Scripture reading: Romans 8, 24-31

I selected this passage of scripture this morning from the book of Paul's epistle to the Church in Rome for several reasons. All things work together for those who love the Lord. If God be for you who can be against you. You young people are taking training here to be teachers. There is one thing that you want to learn early and you can get that lesson while you are in college. That thing is: to work with and cooperate with your school organization. I like to make a talk along this line at the beginning of the college year because one of the characteristics of our students, of those who come here and take the training and go out into the state, is that they have always worked with the organization--principal, supervisor, or whoever the person in charge of the school was. I want to get that thought clearly in you mind; it is team work that counts. That doesn't lessen individual responsibility. It is absolutely essential that when you meet your students you do a good piece of work; absolutely essential that you enter into the spirit of the school in which you are working; that you give your superior officer your hearty cooperation. This doesn't mean that you are to stop doing your own thinking. It does mean that when you do your own thinking you will probably not agree with a number of things which you are told to do. Two thinking people hardly ever agree in their thinking. Sometimes they reach the same conclusion but as a rule one is doing the thinking and the other following.

You can't make a good baseball (and everyone is interested in baseball today--one of the world series games being played at Philadelphia today--) unless every member of that team works as a unit. Here is a ball



player who is good but he will not cooperate with a given pitcher, perhaps doesn't like that pitcher and wants to discredit him, the result is that the team loses the game. If you make a success on the athletic field, and this is especially true in basketball and football, you must work just like little wheels and cogs in a clock. Just one cog out of place and the time piece refuses to keep correct time.

When you go into your school I want you to go with the spirit and the determination that you will do everything in your power to help make that school good; that you will not express an opinion until you have been there long enough to catch the spirit of the organization, then when you see something that you are quite sure can be improved don't go as a fault finder but in the spirit of trying to be of service and make the suggestion that if such a thing were changed it would probably add greatly to the efficiency of the school. If the principal of the school doesn't accept your suggestion then forget it and go into the work to put his program through and to do your level best to make it go. I was not thinking while I was speaking of anybody connected with our college, but it has just dawned on me that I have had a number of suggestion made by people in this institution that have proved almost invaluable. Ninety-nine out of a hundred executives appreciate having suggestions made--though I had no idea of saying this when I began.

Girls who have gone out from this institution--and boys, too, for we have sent some boys out as teachers, and also as doctors and lawyers, and nearly every other profession--except crooks, we don't have any in the penitentiary--have come back to us and made suggestions that have been exceedingly valuable. I want you to catch the spirit of working together, backing up every organization which we have in the college, giving it your undivided support, whether it be Y. W., Student Government



Association or any part of the organization where you find a place to work, give it your undivided support and in giving it support you will not have time for knocks. When you get a knock in a motor you have to take it out and doctor it. Don't get carbon in your cylinders, keep them functioning together with every student and organization in your institution. That is the way for the individual to get the biggest possible returns. We no longer live by ourselves. No man lives by himself any more in this world. We live in a spirit of cooperation with our fellowmen. Our government is a cooperative government. People of the United States work together to make the government we have. The world is so small today that people of this world must work together if they hope to accomplish anything in this complicated civilization that confronts us today. One thing vital in life today is to acquire the ability to work with other folks, and I want to emphasize this. Tomorrow morning I am going to talk with you about cooperation with religious bodies in the community in which you find yourself. Not only cooperate in the classroom and school but, to be really efficient you must go farther. A person who does just his job and quits is a failure. The person who goes just the first mile never succeeds in life; the person who watches a clock, to use a term of big business, and is more interested in the bell that rings to end the day than the one that begins it isn't of very much service to that organization. The person who is willing to do something plus is the one who gets somewhere in life. It is "plus" that gains one promotion and advancement. Do your job "plus" and life will give rich rewards to one whether in business or a profession. A minister who only preaches never gets very far. He must go outside the pulpit, outside of his home Church. The same applies to a lawyer, Doctor, or anyone engaged in any kind of activity. Success depends on satisfactorily completing your job -- plus. The "plus" is the thing that brings you success. I hope you will remember this not only through this college year but all through life.