

CHAPEL, January 3, 1931

-- President Wright

Scripture reading 91st Psalm

I do hope you young folks have had a real pleasant Christmas, and I trust that Santa Claus was just as good to you as you wanted him to be, and that people were good to you. Do you believe in Sanata Claus? There is a splendid article in The News and Observer--it was recopied from several years ago--about Santa Claus. If you haven't read it look that issue up and read it.

I am glad that we are in 1931. It certainly can't be any worse than 1930. Of the large number of banks that have failed in 1930 many will re-open. Our mental attitude is wrong. We have been looking down for the stars and the stars are not down. We must look up if we find them for they are above us. But I am not going to talk to you about that.

You have a clean record this year so far as the college is concerned, or you did have when you came back and I hope it is still clean. I do hope the winter quarter is going to be the best we have had in this college. The fall quarter was very, very satisfactory. Some failed. Some failed fifty per cent, but the list of failures was no excessively large. Young people, make your college work your business. Quite a number of people do not do that. They simply say "My college work is my preparation for my life's work." The best way to make it your preparation for your life's work is to make it for the time being your life's work. It is unquestionably true that a person never finds his life until he loses it. This means that you must become so completely absorbed in the



thing you are doing that your life is consumed in the thing your interest is in. When you get that much interest in the thing you are doing the person with normal intelligence will make it go. Too many people say it doesn't make much difference whether I get this or not, whether I do this well or not. Those folks are the ones who are constantly filling the records with failures. The folks who say we will get by somehow are the ones who are filling the penitentiaries, those who are not willing to hew to the mark, not willing to do the right thing every time, who hope by some means to get by, because thousands and thousands do get by, think maybe we can--and then are overtaken. Sooner or later that spirit will wreck any human being. Sooner or later he will find that it doesn't pay.

You are starting a new quarter and I do hope and trust that each one of you will lose your life in your work and find the success that comes from so doing.

Good luck to you in 1931.