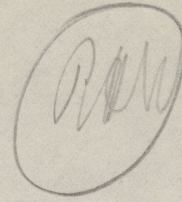


CHAPEL, January 6, 1931

-- President Wright



Scripture Lesson: St. John I, 19-28

I am delighted to see so many of you able to get back to college. We are today in the midst of one of the trying times of human lives. Parents are making a greater sacrifice to educate their sons and daughters today than they have made during many years. We had as a Christmas gift the falling down of quite a number of banks in North Carolina. I do not know how many students were affected so they could not possibly come back to college. I am delighted to see so many of you here.

I am not going to talk along the gloomy side of life. One day the papers reported that six banks had failed in North Carolina--but the sun rose, just as bright as ever. The sun still shines and God is in His Heaven. He is working out something for His people all over the world. I have faith in Him, faith in you; faith in my fellowman. I believe the world is suffering today for the lack of faith. Remember, young friends, God works out everything for the best for those who live the way he would have them live.

You are beginning another quarter of college work. I hope during this quarter every student in this college will do the very best he or she can. It is a time when we need to put forth unusual effort to accomplish worthwhile things, and one of the worthwhile things is education. If we work out the problems before us as a state, nation, or any given community we are going to do it because of the intelligence of those who are solving the problem--in other words, they are problems for educated people. There will be very serious problems for you to solve when you come into the positions now occupied by others, and the education you have acquired and your intelligence are going to be of great service in solving these problems. So it behooves

you to acquire all the knowledge you can and fit yourselves as best you can for the work that lies before us.

I hope you had a good Christmas, and that you still believe in Santa Claus. I want you to be cheerful and bright; there's nothing that helps the world like a bright and cheerful countenance, a spirit that radiates cheer. Let come what may; meet it with a smile. The darkest hour is just before the dawn--meet it with a smile.