

CHAPEL -- March 4, 1931

President Wright

Wright

Scripture reading from the 119th Psalm

My talk to you yesterday morning giving you the tendencies that you see world wide may have a tendency, unless you get the thought that we have read to you from these different sections of the 119th Psalm, to make people go like those boys went in that play last night. You know that I didn't know that Gay McLauren was going to give you that play but I am glad that you have had it and at this particular time, for it fits in exactly with what I have been saying.

There is just as much danger when the pendulum swings too far toward individualism as when it swings too far toward centralization. My concept of a democracy is a government in which we have the correct balance between these two extremes. If you study physics you know when the pendulum swings to the extreme either right or left that for a very small fraction of time it stops, is perfectly still and then turns back the other way. Half way between the two, or approximately half way, the movement of the pendulum is at maximum speed. That means, to me, that with a proper balance of centralization and a proper balance on the other hand of individualism, civilization is given the maximum opportunity for advancement; and if we can have a democratic form of government, it doesn't make any difference what it is, ^{called} so long as it has this complete balance, ^{then we will have} human society ~~is~~ organized in a way to give the greatest possible service to human beings. There is no such thing as absolute freedom if we interpret that to mean the right of every individual to do just as he pleases. There is no such thing. This earth, in God's great scheme must work in harmony with the rest of God's creation, and when it fails

to do that this earth will be destroyed, and that is true of the individual. The individual must work in harmony with other individuals or be destroyed. The psalmist that wrote this 119th Psalm, ~~certainly the part that we have read so far~~, certainly realized that God's laws are eternal and that the individual can make the greatest possible advancement when he lives in touch and in harmony with God's precepts. If you can line up your life so that you are working in complete harmony with Jehovah there can be no such thing as failure for you in this temporal existence ~~on earth~~. The great laws of God control the earth and all the other creations of God, control your actions and mine, and when you and I line up our actions so that they are in harmony with the spirit of Jehovah you and I can make the most possible out of our lives. That thought should become an integral part of our lives. This does not mean that human beings must all be alike. That is not a part of God's plan. It doesn't mean that every child must do the same thing that every other child does. God has not created us that way. He has created each individual with a different purpose, and if he can find that purpose and fit himself into it his life is in harmony with Jehovah's plan and he will accomplish most.

Quite often we have a false concept with reference to religion. Religion is something that can't be handed to you by the Church; it is not something you can get by following a set of rules--you have to experience it to know it. We accept the laws of science. There isn't time to work it all out individually; we accept them and say that the authorities on science say so and so. But who can tell us of Goodness? Who can get any concept of what Goodness is by what people say? Who can tell us what love is? We can't refer to authorities on that. To understand Goodness and Love you must experience *them* it. There is a world of difference in the things that you can have handed you by authorities and the things that you can't get any other way on earth

except to live them, and we want to keep that in mind in all our teaching,
and in all our thinking. There are some things we have to ^{live}~~use~~ to know.