

CHAPEL -- March 20, 1931

-- President Wright

*Wright*

Scripture lesson: 119th Psalm, Verses 161-168

The election of Y. W. C. A. officers will be held this evening at 6:30. I hope you will do as good a job as you did in the election of Student Government officers. I feel like complimenting you on that election; I did compliment you on the nominations you made. I am glad you succeeded in having an election the first chance at it. A few years ago I thought they never were going to succeed in making an election. I think it a real good sign to find the student body of the college of such a mind that they realize the importance of the civic obligations resting upon them in times of election. One thing our nation is suffering from today is that too many citizens fail to vote and then constantly find fault with the results of the election. There are a number of you young folks who didn't get the person you voted for elected. Let the election be over. The people who were elected are your officers; just as much the officers of the people who did not vote for them as of those who did. American as a nation is very much interested in sports. Sometimes I wonder if we are good sportsmen. A good sportsman will play the game and play it with all the power he has. He will abide by the decision of the umpire whether he likes it or not, and will not sulk in his tent but will take defeat with a smile if defeated, and be ready to play the next game. We haven't done that in politics in America; it is a lesson we need to learn. Vote; certainly vote. Don't say it is not worthwhile. If you win be happy; if you lose don't be miserable, but take it as a sportsman. You get that kind of lesson in the organization we have in our college. In fact, our college in a large measure is organized on the same general basis that our government is. You are getting good civic practice and lessons in our college. I have said repeatedly that I think we have the finest

student body in this college this year that we have ever had, and I believe that. You hear people every once in a while say "I don't know what the world's coming to; don't know what's to become of the youth of today!" Those people have been living ever since we have had any history of the world. You remember not long ago I spoke to you about the pendulum swing and the change in our philosophy. That change in our philosophy runs all through our lives. We find it in the home. "Children have no respect for their parents!" That isn't true. The intelligence of parents is superior to what it was a generation ago. There is a realization on the part of the parents that a child has certain rights, and should be allowed certain rights. It is much easier to call Johnny in and give him a good thrashing than to call him in and let him see by reasoning and talking with him that the thing he has done is not to his best interest. It is much more difficult to give an individual a chance to develop his individuality and by persuasion to lead him to the right, than to be a czar in the home and if he rebels give him a genuine thrashing and turn him loose. That doesn't take the rebellion out of him and help him to realize his responsibilities. It sends him away more rebellious. The other day Andy Gump had his boy across his knee with a brush in his hand. When he let him go he said "Do you know where all bad boys go?" And Chester hollered back "The same place all bad men go!" Chester had more sense than Andy, and Chester had been thrashed. We see that kind of thing going on everywhere. The world is full of Gumps--big Gumps. But we are beginning to realize, and this new philosophy is dominant in the home and in the school, that even a little child has rights. that ought to be considered almost sacred and the parent owes that child not a thrashing but the parent's time to help him make his adjustment; to help him retain his individuality and develop his personality and at the same time adjust himself to the demands of human society. It is all teaching. The world needs teaching today more than it has ever needed it before. True knowledge with the right kind of spirit will

bring us out of this slump; the world will be filled with sunshine and happiness and be a much better place in which to live. It is coming and in not so many years because universal education is permeating everyone and we are beginning to see with the right kind of balance and realize our obligations to ourselves and to all with whom we come in contact.

Get your lessons, young people, along that line.