

CHAPEL October 3, 1931

-- President Wright

Scripture lesson: St. John, Fourth Chapter, Verses

Young friends, I am glad that you do not have the feeling of responsibility that rests upon the teachers and officers of the college at the opening of college. I am glad that you do not have that feeling of responsibility that rests upon me today. The kind of start a student makes in college in a large measure shapes that student's college career. I realize that quite often a student who makes a bad start corrects it, but in most cases a good beginning is a pretty good sign of a good ending. The past college year was the most enjoyable college year I have ever spent. We had the finest spirit in our institution that I have ever seen in a college, and I, for one, confidently expect even a finer year this year. You are here, primarily,--as the world views it, at least--you are here primarily for the knowledge that you can acquire and I want to tell you, as valuable as that knowledge is, that lacks a great deal of being the sum total of a college education. A human being is more than just an intellectual machine. A human being is not only mental and physical, but spiritual; and in its final analysis the spirit that enters into your life and causes you to enter into your daily activities is the directing force. Not all spirits are good; there are evil spirits as well as righteous spirits. You cannot live a full life unless you develop the spirit life. This institution is a state institution and in no sense denominational. You know a lot of people have said and thought that state institutions are Godless institutions; but that is wrong. We do not require you to come to the Y. W. C. A., but we do urge you with all the emphasis we can to come, and also to go to Sunday School and to Church, because in that way we believe you can best develop the spirit life that is in every one of

us. In North Carolina our people are Christian, therefore the state that supports this institution is desirous that its citizenship be spiritual-minded. Let me urge you with all the power I have to go to Sunday School tomorrow; to join a Sunday School class, and then stay for Church service. I do not know to what Church you belong at home or to what Church your people belong, but even if you are not a member of a Church you are in some way connected with one at home, and that is the Church for you to attend while in college. I believe there is a Church of every denomination in this town except a Jewish synagogue. If you are a member of the Baptist, Episcopal, or any other Church in Greenville, go to that Church, join the Sunday School class, then stay for morning services. The members of every Church in this town will be glad to have you. They look forward to the opening of the college and the coming of the young women--and this year, young men--into their Churches. They want you there and we want you there, because our experience in life has shown us that you cannot live the full life without the development of the spirit life. God--and all nations everywhere believe in God--according to the word which I read this morning is a spirit, and they who worship Him worship him in spirit and in truth. It is the spirit that makes your life worthwhile.

The joy that comes to the operator of a large business, if he is the right kind of operator, is not the profits placed on his ledger, but the realization that he is conducting a business that is worthwhile to his fellowmen. You are going into the school rooms to teach. The spirit that you carry into the school room is going to shape the lives of the boys and girls you teach. You can so teach as to develop crooks or you can so teach that they will have high ideals and renewed determination to make the most possible out of their lives. Often we speak of the crime wave of the youth of today-- I don't believe there is such a thing--but we spread of it. The lives of these

young people are shaped by what they find in the homes, schools and communities from which they came, and if their lives are failures it is because back there in early childhood the right spirit was not instilled in those lives. We haven't thought as much as we should have about those who have fallen by the wayside. I firmly believe that if a child comes out of a home and a community that has not instilled the right spirit in that child the right kind of teaching will change that spirit. It has been done thousands of times. Where are you going to get that spirit? You must develop it now.

Jesus said He didn't come to destroy the law of the prophets, but to fulfil. To fill full with the spirit of love. You must fill your life full with that spirit life that will help you shape your destiny here and determine your destiny hereafter. Young friends, I want that spirit to enter into your lives at the beginning of your college career. I want you to go to Church and Sunday School and Y. W. C. A.

This world is suffering today because men in authority haven't the spirit of Him who came to show us how to live. What a condition this world is in because of our ignorance, superstition, and lack of the spirit of the lowly Nazarine. Take that spirit into your life and make the most possible out of that life here by living as He directed.