

*(Handwritten initials)*

CHAPEL, APRIL 7, 1932

-- President Wright

Scripture lesson: 13 verses from the third Chapter of Genesis

This passage is filled with all kinds of possibilities for philosophical discussion. We blame Adam and Eve for <sup>buy</sup> taking of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Until then they did not know good and evil; did not know it was wrong to lie, steal, disobey the commands of God. That is one line of reasoning. How were they to be blamed for doing what they did not know was wrong, if they had no knowledge of good and evil? When God came and called to them they hid themselves away. When God asked Adam if he had taken of the fruit he began to make excuses and to throw it back on God--<sup>when he was given to her with</sup> "the woman you gave me". The woman said it was the serpeant that beguiled me --not me, something else. Interesting, isn't it? People the world over are constantly giving excuses. I have heard this explanation of this story, that it was intended more or less as a rather dramatic way of bringing to attention of people of the world that human beings in their development finally reached a period in life when they were conscious of their social obligations and right and wrong. That's true so far as the development of the human being is concerned, as we know today. That period comes along in the adolescent age. When the mother and father no longer have to tell John to put on a clean collar or shine his shoes----that period when the boy is passing from childhood into manhood. This story pictures that period in life. Whether that is the purpose of the story or not is another question, but it pictures that period and happy is the human being who can come through that period with right ideals and right purposes. It is a critical period in life. In most cases the destiny of a life is shaped during this period. This is a problem that you as teachers are going to have to help solve in many, many, lives. At that period the cooperation and sympathetic help of more mature people is needed. Many a life is ruined because the individual does not come through that period of adolescent and land on the right side.