

(RM)

CHAPEL, September 30, 1932

--President Wright

Scripture reading: 10 verses from the First Chapter of Book of Proverbs

I am delighted to see so many of you here this morning. It is a real pleasure to me to welcome those back who were here last year, and to extend our congratulations and best wishes to those who are here for the first time. The Registrar tells me this morning that we have registered 869 students. This gives us a good large student body. ~~It is a pleasure to me to have you here.~~ You start today with a clean sheet and it depends upon you what ^{is written} ~~you are going to write~~ on it. The college year is before you. This is your opportunity.

I selected this passage of scripture this morning because of what it had to say to you. "My son, hear the instructions of your father and forsake not the law of your mother." I am calling that to your attention because so many people in America today feel that a college is a place that pulls young people away from the teachings of ^{the} home. That is not the situation at all. The best friend you have on earth is your mother. The thoughts, the hopes and the ambitions of one's parents should always be heeded by the young. Do not forget the teachings of the home. The home is the foundation stone upon which this republic of ours is built, and anything which tears down the home is injurious to civilization and the government.

The second thing I wish to call to your attention is ^{the} "fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction." I have seen people who did despise instruction. I have seen people who were in college who didn't want wisdom; ^{and} have seen those same people, later, regret very much, indeed, the position they had taken. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge." -- ^{we should realize all} ~~the realization that~~ knowledge comes from the supreme. Our study is in a large measure to find out the great fundamental

laws of this world and apply those laws to one's daily life. Next, I wish to call to your attention the tenth verse of this chapter: "My son, if sinners entice thee, consent ^{thou} ~~thou~~ not." There ^{are} ~~will be~~ people who will do everything in their power to pull you away from your purpose. College, after all, is just a cross section of human society. We think we have a select ^{group} ~~bunch~~, and we do, but we have nearly all types, after all, leaving out morons and feeble-minded. You will meet people who will see things differently, ~~who will~~ try to pull you away from your purpose. "If sinners entice thee, consent ~~thou~~ ^{thou} not." Someone will say to you "I wouldn't study tonight, you will make it all right." The next day when the teacher calls ~~on~~ you first and you are not prepared you will begin to realize that someone is leading you, and you are following. That's one application of what Solomon meant. ¶ The world needs college trained men and women. I have been thinking very much for the last few weeks of this period of economic distress that we are passing through. This thought came to me "Suppose this period does blight the lives of a great section of the youth of this country--blight the lives because the home folks do not have the money to give them the education they are striving to get." What effect will it have? It will be a blight that will run through this generation and it will cost, to overcome that blight, many times the amount of money education would cost. The cost is \$400 a year to take care of one criminal. It costs \$255 a year to send one student to East Carolina Teachers College, if the student signs the agreement to teach. And one year in college, if the student comes with the right spirit and gets from it all he can, ^{and} increased ^{his} ~~his~~ ideals, raises his standards, broadens his vision and makes him a better citizen. It is my sincere wish and desire that this fine group of young folks who are with us this year may each one gather from this year's experience in college something that will make of each individual a better citizen; a more useful man or woman, a more serviceable human being, and that it may help each one

to live just a little fuller life.

May this year mean the most possible to you; but young folks, it will mean just what you make it--you will get out of it just what you put in it. Good luck to you through 1932-33.