

Chapel, October 1, 1932

--President Wright

Scripture reading: Sixth Chapter, Mathew, Verses

On the first Saturday of each fall quarter I make it a rule to talk to the students with reference to their religious life while in college. Our institution is a state-supported school, and a state-supported school is in no sense Denominational, but it is in a broad sense, in ~~the State of North Carolina~~, a religious institution. To be a good citizen in the type of government we have it is necessary for one to be well-rounded in his mental and also his spiritual life. Someone has said in substance that it is no concern ~~in~~ the state what religion a person has, and in a sense that is true. The general inference has been that since the Church and state are separated that the state is not concerned about the religious life of its citizens. The state is much concerned with the proper development of its individual citizens. It is, therefore, a great deal of concern to us that you develop in the best possible way your spiritual life. I selected this passage from Matthew because it puts the spiritual life first. "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; ----- yet Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these" Why do you give your thought to clothes and food? The birds of the air do not do that and yet your Heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of much more importance than they? "Seek ~~ye~~ first the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you." Back of everything the individual does is the spirit life--that gives life its vitalization. If that statement be true it is of a great deal of importance to the state and ~~government~~ that the individual develop ~~that~~ <sup>his</sup> spirit life. In no sense is the college concerned about what

Church you attend, but it is of vital concern ~~concern~~ at whether you go to Church at all or not. The college insists, as far as it can, that you go to Church. I am going to tell you this morning what Church to go to. If you are a member of any Church in this community whether it be Protestant or Catholic go to that Church. If you as an individual are not a member of some particular Church then go to the Church ~~that~~ your family attends. Tomorrow morning, the first Sabbath you spend in college, select the Church of your family, or your choice, and join the Sunday School. Stay after Sunday School for the Church service and make that Church your Church home while here. "But I want to go around to all, and see which I like" some say. If you want to make the most of your spirit life select one Church and make it your Church home while in college. We do not go to the evening service because we have a religious service here. The Y. W. C. A. --and it is open to men--holds a service at 6:30, and you will want to be here for each one of these services. Join the Y. W. C. A.; it is non-denominational and non-sectarian. It is open to everyone. We cannot develop the muscles of the body without using them; we cannot develop the brain without using it; there is no way to grow except through action. If you grow spiritually you must take part in the things that develop the spirit life. It is the spirit that quickens.

May this year be a splendid year in the spirit life of every student in this college. That is my sincere wish.