

CHAPEL, October 26, 1932

-- President Wright

RMU

Scripture lesson: From the 13th Chapter of the Book of Romans

I am giving a series of talks intended to help us make our adjustments, one to the other. I understand that some have interpreted my talk yesterday morning as a new regulation in the college. ^{I made no new regulation} I see no reason why boys and girls shouldn't walk together if they do it in the right way. I am delighted that we have young men in the college. If you hear anyone say we do not want them, tell them I said -----well, fill the blanks yourself, but we do want the young men students.

A few years ago we had a follow-up system. Teachers went out in the field with the students who had finished the course the previous year. We found that 97% --or 97 $\frac{1}{2}$ %-- of our students were making good. Only 1% failed because they didn't know how to teach, and the others failed because they didn't know how to conduct themselves socially. Now that we have both sexes on our campus we have another problem in administration, but you have a chance to make your adjustments. I want to help you make your adjustments, to help you correct the defects that have led to failures among some of our former students. I am delighted to have young men in our college and such a fine type; we should have "Co-eds" on our campus; I don't know why more schools in our state have not been co-educational.

I am trying to help you make adjustments and I want your cooperation. I do not see any reason why a young man shouldn't come from the library by here and leave his books, and if you will let me, I'll be delighted to let them come over here and study. But you won't let me. Let's make these adjustments in the right kind of way. I want to create a spirit in this college that will stand out in the state; to make our college an example for handling these problems.

I must have the cooperation of the entire student body, and teachers and officers. I am going to be frank with you and show you from time to time the things that I see going on that ought not to go on.

The passage of scripture I selected this morning appears in next Sunday's Sunday School lesson, but happens to be exactly what I wanted to say. Paul, writing to the Romans, realized that they had as king a man whose name is infamous in history, Nero, and yet Paul tells these people to obey the law; it is all ordained by God. He means that the laws of the government under which they lived should be obeyed, and they must pay taxes to support that government. We cannot have any organized human society without rules and regulations; it is law that gives freedom. Emperor Nero is a bad ruler--Paul didn't say that, but history does--the laws are bad, but he tells them they must obey. That, young folks, is fundamental in all organizations. It is fundamental that we have rules and regulations. There is no such thing as freedom except freedom under the law. You can't do just as you please and live in harmony with your fellow-men. Take any community--we will say, for example, the college; and say there are no rules and regulations. You buy a radio and put it in your room and run it from one o'clock till four in the morning. Does your next door neighbor have freedom? She wants to sleep, and can't. Suppose I'm living in Greenville and there are no laws; I hire a brass band and have it play ~~it~~ all night in my yard; there is a sick person next door to me, does he have any freedom? He does not. The person may die as a result of my freedom. What I want to say is this: there is no such thing as freedom in the sense of license to do as one pleases. The greatest amount of individual freedom comes from working together under rules and regulations we call laws.

We have to make certain adjustments to this new environment in which we find ourselves. I am watching closely, and I want you to help me to make the regu-

lations that will give you the greatest amount of freedom. I am counting on your spirit of cooperation, and expecting one hundred per cent support.