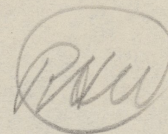


CHAPEL, OCTOBER 12, 1933

-- President Wright



Scripture lesson: from the Ninth Chapter, Acts

Today is Columbus Day, and it is also Founders' Day for the University of North Carolina.

I read in your hearing this morning some very interesting facts about the life of this man Saul, whose life we are studying now in the Sunday Schools. Saul had been persecuting the Christians, so that when he came into Damascus and began to preach in the synagogues they didn't have a bit of faith in him. He was unquestionably the most learned man preaching in Damascus. He took the scripture and proved unquestionably that the ~~so-called~~ ^{man (Jesus)} ~~Messiah~~ was the Christ the Jews had been waiting for. But they were afraid of him. He went down to Jerusalem, intending to join the disciples who were there, but they wouldn't take him. This side of Paul's life has never been emphasized. He had a hard time for four or five years getting the Christians to accept him as a Christian. After he was convinced that Jesus was the long-looked-for Messiah of the Jews the Christians wouldn't accept him, were still afraid of him. One Jew named Barnabas went in and ~~plead~~ ^{vouched} for this man Saul. There was no question about Barnabas' being a Christian, about his believing that Jesus was the Messiah. On Barnabas' say-so they let him come in, but he was not allowed to remain with them and was sent ~~back~~ to Tarsus, which was his home town. What we do in this life sometimes stays with us a long time, even if we are converted. If we repent, theologically, that is a change of mind. If we are converted, theologically, that means that repentance has entered into the heart and soul of one, and he not only knows, but believes and that belief becomes the motive power in his life. Paul was converted. Conversion has been interpreted as a complete change; if one is going south, he goes north, he changes from east to west, if he has been serving the devil he

serves Jehovah. It means a change in one's life from evil to good. Paul was truly converted, but it took him a long, long time to convince the other Christians that he was really a Christian, too. After a while he became a leader among the Christians. He didn't give up what he knew to be right. He was willing to make any kind of sacrifice that was necessary. For a while he had both Christians and Jews against him, but he kept preaching what he knew to be right.

I wonder if you and I have the courage to do the thing we know we should do? I hope we have.