

CHAPEL, October 17, 1933

-- President Wright

*Wright*

Scripture lesson: 13 verses from the 13th Chapter of the Book of Acts

This week has been set aside as Childhood and Youth week, and I hope to talk to you on this subject once or twice this week.

This morning I want to talk to you about Sunday, not last Sunday or next, but Sunday in general. There was a good reason why the Jews set aside one day out of seven as a Sabbath Day, just looking at it as one means of human betterment. There is no question about it, a person can do more, accomplish more, grow better, and become a much more worthwhile citizen if that person takes one day out of seven as what we call a Sabbath Day. Our civilization, as now organized, makes it almost impossible, I realize. We have turned the Sabbath Day--and Sunday was not the Sabbath Day of the Jews; their Sabbath Day was Saturday, but Sunday is now taken as the day of rest by almost all Christian people--this day has been taken by our people largely as a day for visiting, automobile riding, joy riding, football and baseball. We are saying that's the best way for certain people to rest. I am not taking issue with that, but we are face to face with that situation. In the organization of our college we are trying to set aside at least two hours on this day as a period of quietness. We call it quiet hour. It is set aside so that students who live in the dormitories may have a certain amount of time they can use for almost anything they want to do, provided they keep quiet. They may write home, read, take a nap. Out of my experience, young folks, I have found that it is almost necessary in my life for me to have a certain amount of quiet time. For the last few years I, personally, have been setting aside Sunday afternoon as my sabbath day, and I find it is worth more to me than almost any other half day. Out of my personal experience I know it is good for one to have a a quiet hour or two hours a week, it is good for you to have a quiet hour or two in your dormitories every week, and preferably on Sunday. I realize

there are all kinds of things to pull you away from it. As I look over the world today and see how the whole world is going after the material side of things--even our President, and he is a great man, is working over time to re-establish the material side of our lives--as I see that going on not only here, but everywhere, and realize that we are constantly neglecting to place the emphasis on the spiritual life, I realize that we must pay for what we are doing. I realize that we cannot neglect the spiritual side of life and be a prosperous people. I know as well as I know anything, that it is absolutely essential for the civilization of tomorrow that the people of today develop the spiritual side of their lives. And to do that I know of no better way than to give the student body in a college like ours a period of meditation, a period in which they can rehabilitate their physical bodies in part, and meditate upon the spiritual side of their lives.

We are making a mistake, young folks. I want you to write to your home folks, and tell them to help you develop this side of your lives and not to call during your quiet hour. Your dormitory room is your home.

To be Continued