

(P.W.)

CHAPEL, November 2, 1933

- President Wright

Scripture lesson: Verses 5-11, 15th Chapter, Book of Acts

The Christian Church, from its beginning, had trouble with the laws of the Jews. There was a division in the Church and it reached the point where it was really very hurtful to the Church, especially the Church in Antioch. In order that they might settle their disputes they sent a delegation to Jerusalem. James seems to have been the head of ^{The Elders in Jerusalem} that delegation. This is our first Church conference. It dealt with the question of whether or not Gentiles who wanted to become Christians might come into the Church without conforming to all the laws of the Jews. Peter seems to have made the determining speech. I want to call your attention to what Peter said: "And God, which knoweth the hearts". This council at Jerusalem was the final decision that threw the doors of the Christian Church open to the Gentiles of the world. It was through this decision that you and I have had the privilege of the Christian religion. It was through that decision that we realized that Christianity is an individual problem. This is probably the most far-reaching decision of any Church Council that has ever been held, and it is in part based on that part of the sentence I read in your hearing: "And God, which knoweth the heart". God knows the inner hearts of human beings. If I fail to ring true, and I may fail to ring true, and may deceive you, may deceive all human beings, but I can't deceive God, the final Judge before whom I must come and give an account of the deeds done in the body. He knows what's in my heart. He knows when you ring true, and when you are false. The responsibility, in a large measure, is an individual responsibility, but there is One whom we cannot deceive. God is not mocked, whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. If I play you false, God knows it, and in its final analysis I pay for it. If you fail to ring true when you are brought to the test, you may fool your fellowmen, but you can't fool Jehovah. Truth, crushed to earth, will

rise again.⁹⁹ Falsehood and error come back on the head of the one who is guilty. You may say that's a worn-out theory, but sooner or later you will find it true.

I knew a boy in a preparatory school who failed to ring true; he falsified his record; it was ultimately found out. His name was read out in chapel; a statement of what he had done was made. He went out of that chapel as though he were the hero of the occasion; before he died he landed in the penitentiary.

“Be not deceived; God is not mocked.⁹⁹ God knows what is in your heart and my heart.