

Paul

CHAPEL, NOVEMBER 14, 1933

-- President Wright

Scripture Lesson: From the 17th Chapter, Book of Acts

I selected this passage of scripture this morning because I wanted to talk to you about something that is in this passage. Paul and Silas had gone over into a certain Greek city, and as was Paul's custom, on the Sabbath Day, he went into the Synagogue and reasoned with the people and evidently took the scripture and proved to his satisfaction and to the satisfaction of most of the people who heard him that Jesus was the long-looked-for Messiah of the Jews, that Jesus was the Son of God, that He is the great example for human beings to shape their lives after. Certain rude fellows were gathered together and went into the court and stirred up the people. They lied, made false representations, even said that Paul was teaching that Jesus was the King of the Roman Empire. Paul didn't teach that, as a matter of fact, so they took the man in whose house Paul and Silas were staying, a man named Jason. They didn't know just what to do with him, so they let him give bond and go. The significant thing about this lesson, to me, is that we still have people who do not mind lying to carry a point. We still have people who do not mind misrepresenting the truth to carry a point. Young folks, I am sorry for you, in one way, because the civilization that we have worked out pretty well in this world has literally been broken up, broken all to pieces, and many of the standards that we have held to are being discarded. We are making some mistakes. On the other hand, I am not sorry for you, but congratulate you on being young men and young women in this particular time in the history of the world, because all the standards of civilization are being questioned. They are being made to stand up and justify themselves and if they cannot justify themselves they will, and should be, discarded, and something will come to take their place. You are truly living in a critical period in the history of the world. If you will remember that statement of mine and live thirty years longer you will realize the significance of that statement. In this critical period of

our civilization justice is one of the main things we should hold to, and character is absolutely essential if we are going to go through this period successfully. The man or the woman who will lie for himself or his friends or against his enemies is not to be trusted. A person/^{who} does not ring true and in whose character truth is not the dominant thing is a dangerous character in the civilization we are coming into. The person who will deliberately do a questionable deed is a dangerous character.

I am telling you these things this morning, young folks, because I want to impress them upon you, that you, each individual, may order your lives in keeping with the things that will help you to build the kind of life that will be worthwhile in this new civilization when many of the things we have held to will pass and new things take their places. "To thine own self be true." Regardless of what the rest of the world may think, hold to your ideals, ring true to the best there is in life. What a glorious civilization we are coming into, if this generation of young folks can take hold of the things that are worthwhile, can hold to them. And what a mess the world will be in if you do not!

There is resting upon the college boy and girl of today the greatest responsibility that has ever rested upon a group of young folks, in the history of the world, because you young people will, in a large measure, make the civilization of tomorrow, and you will make it by the way you live. Hold to the truth, young folks, for the sake of the whole world.