

CHAPÉL, November 18, 1933

-- President Wright

RMW

Scripture Lesson: 17th Chapter Book of Acts, Verses 16-

Paul had an interesting experience in Athens, and the people of Athens had a rather interesting experience with Paul. This passage of scripture in the 17th chapter of the Book of Acts gives you an insight into what the people of Athens, especially the learned people, did. They met on Mars Hill and discussed various and sundry questions. As a result of this Athens became a most learned city. Some of the greatest philosophies of the world were developed in this open forum. Their religion was a form of idolatry. They had a separate god for the various and sundry activities of life, but they were still not satisfied, and had erected ^{an altar} ~~a monument~~ "To The Unknown God." Paul, seeing this ^{altar} ~~monument~~, took that as his theme, and told the Greeks about this unknown God when he was before the supreme court. They listened to him. They always listened to the people who came to their open forum for any discussion. When he was through developing the thought that Jehovah was God and that Jesus was His representative on earth and that Jesus had died and arisen from the grave there were people who scoffed at it, just as there are people who scoff and pay no attention today when something new comes along. They said, in effect, "He's an old crank", or "He has something new and is trying to make a name for himself." Some made fun of him, others said they would like to discuss it again. Their minds were never closed. One member of the court agreed with him. There are a lot of new things coming into your lives, young folks. I wonder how you are going to receive them. Some will be true and some false. Are we going to weigh them in the balance? to seek for the truth?

If there is any one thing I believe this student body needs more than any other one thing I believe it is to learn to think, to think before you act. I think it would be a good thing if you would weigh every act; look at it through and through. A number of students last Saturday wanted to know if it were necessary to sign out when they went across to the other ball park to see the football game.

They didn't stop and think. We do not keep records in college in order to catch somebody in wrongdoing. That is not our motive at all, and God forbid that we ever keep records for that purpose. We owe it to your parents to tell them where you are, especially if you are off the campus. If you are off the campus and haven't signed out, we naturally think you are on the campus, and will look for you there. I have taken this very simple thing to let you know what I mean by thinking before you act. It is necessary, or a world of mistakes will be made. There isn't a regulation of your college that ought not to be. If so, we are ready to change it. If you are going to be a good citizen it is necessary that you conform to these regulations, in spirit and in truth. But I want to go beyond this. Think on the great problems that confront you; weigh them in the balance. Accept the truth; reject the false.