

(PAllen)

CHAPEL, December 12, 1933

-- President Wright

Scripture Lesson: Verses 3-10 Fourth Chapter Genesis

I hope that you who have not paid your bills will make some arrangements for paying them, before college closes Saturday. The college is really in distress financially. Our appropriation has been cut ~~from~~ ^{over} forty-five to ~~fifty~~ per cent and the income is so low that it is exceedingly difficult to operate. I haven't said much to you about this situation this fall, because it is my problem and not yours, but if you haven't paid your bill that is your obligation, and you should do this as soon as possible. Please write your parents, if you still owe something, and when they come or send for you, have them bring a check.

from last year's app.

I read this passage of scripture from the Fourth chapter of Genesis this morning because, although this lesson is old, I am afraid we are growing away from it. When Cain and Abel presented their gifts one was accepted, and the other was rejected. The explanation was the sin of Cain. Cain went out into the field and got in an argument with Abel and killed him. Of course he had to face Jehovah. He asked, "Am I my brother's keeper?" The answer was The voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground. The answer is that you are your brother's keeper; you are responsible for things that go on around you, even though you are not engaged in them. It seems to me that spirit, to ask, Am I my brother's keeper? is sweeping over the whole nation. We have lost the relationship of our individual obligation to human society and to those around us. "None of my business" if a person cheats on examination; "Not my business" if a person takes something that doesn't belong to him. It is your business. We ride along the highways and see something done that ought not to be done, and we don't stop it, or try to correct it. It is your business. Apparently, we have lost sight of our obligation to human society. That was long ago expressed in what was known as the hue and cry. If a person stole

something he was followed by the cry of "Stop Thief!" and all those who heard it joined. If murder was committed the people raised a hue and cry and tried to overtake the murderer. Today we are turning the responsibility over to someone else.

If we have trouble financing the cotton crop, or the tobacco or some other crop, we turn to the government--though, that is not really a good illustration since we are the government, but we should handle that problem locally or individually.