

CHAPEL, January 17, 1934

-- President Wright

Scripture lesson: Matthew IV, verses 12-17

Sometimes out of confusion come thoughts that may be helpful. Last evening I attended a very lively meeting of the Rotary Club, heard ~~two~~ preachers talk--about something besides religion; came home and bowled a few games; turned on the radio and picked up a program I wanted to hear, when the door bell rang; I answered it, and tried to pick up the conversation again, when my wife came in to ask me a question. I gave up the radio program and picked up a magazine; the telephone rang, and I answered that; then company came. After they left I turned on the radio again and picked up a rather interesting talk, when my daughter came home with a bunch of young folks--and I didn't hear the radio program.

About 11:15 the house had settled down, and I thought, This evening I have spent is just about like the world today; it is full of confusion; and the more I think about it the more I am sure that is right. Our standards of business in all its phases, our standards of life in all its relationships, our standards in religion, thinking of it in a broad sense, have all been torn down and we are in the midst of a great world wide era of confusion. The United States Government recognized Russia; a small group of American airplanes tried the experiment of going from California to the Hawaiian Islands, and succeeded. A prominent person in Japan said, "The United States is trying to surround Japan, so it can declare war on our nation, and we must enlarge our navy." That, of course, is an absurd statement but it shows the confusion in the minds of people everywhere. Our recognition of Russia and the flight of these planes had nothing whatever to do with our relationship with Japan, but one of their leading men jumped at the conclusion that it was a scheme to surround Japan. Yesterday the President of the United States tried to give the people something they have been asking, that is an estimate of the worth of the American dollar with reference to gold. And every nation on earth is worried about it. This world is in the midst of great

confusion. We are not yet tying ourselves definitely to anything. A lot of things have taken place that never should have. Bankers have almost made banking disreputable. People in high place in governments all over the world have made the term politics have a bad meaning. Religion (I am not speaking of Christianity) religion, in a broad sense, has failed utterly to satisfy. Is there nothing stable on earth? We are beginning to ask that question. The pessimist will say there is not. The optimist can find a lot of things that are worthwhile. The sane thinkers of today must show us the way out. There is no doubt whatever that we are approaching some form of collectivism. There is no doubt whatever that the civilization of tomorrow is going to be a success or failure depending upon the intelligence of the citizenry, because planning for the future demands intelligence. In the midst of all this collectivism there is the greatest demand in the history of my generation or yours for real genuine individualism. This new era is going to call for the best there is in each of us as individuals. It does behoove us, therefore, to realize that we must increase our intelligence to the maximum, must acquire all the facts possible, must realize our obligation to our fellow students in college, to our fellow students outside, must realize we can't live except in close communion with our fellowmen. Our obligation to our fellowman is just as important as our obligation to ourselves to make the most possible of life. When we get a generation of young folks to take hold of government with those ideals we will have definite standards and standards we can tie to. We will take the superstition and tradition out of religion and find that after all religion, the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, is stable and satisfying. We are going to have more faith in our fellowman, more faith in God. On that rock we are going to build a better world.