

CHAPEL, January 20, 1934

-- President Wright

Scripture lesson: Matthew IV, verses 23-35

Of the two types of government we were discussing Thursday, the type of which the United States is an example is generally spoken of as capitalistic. In the other type the government is the whole thing; everything is planned for everybody. Russia is perhaps the best example of this type. Russia's public school system, and a wonderful piece of work has been done in organizing the public school system, is part of the government's activity. People are required to go to school. Every person is employed in Russia, every person is required to work. The government is the greatest thing in Russia, and it has succeeded as well as it has because of the spirit of the people, a spirit of service to their government.

President Roosevelt's plan to give work to all the unemployed in our country is an experiment; billions are to be spent until work is provided for all the unemployed; working hours for those employed are to be shortened until every one is given an opportunity to work for a living. The scheme is to withdraw the government's financial support as soon as all are given employment, and re-establish the capitalistic system. Whether or not this scheme will succeed depends altogether upon our attitude. All of these billions being spent by the government today will have to be paid back, and we will have to pay it back, we, the people of the United States. I am afraid the spirit in our nation is almost diametrically opposite that found in Russia. Our attitude seems to be to get from the government everything possible. If that is the spirit of the people of America, it is going to be utterly impossible for the government to pay back all this money it is borrowing. If we are going to continue in America to get everything from the government we can, not realizing we are in reality taking it away from ourselves, our government cannot carry on long. It behooves

us as good citizens to be willing, to actually want to pay our part. That has not been true in America for the last two years. Day after day as various and sundry investigating committees make their reports we find many of our richer people doing everything possible to avoid paying their part toward operating the government. Literally millions of dollars due the Federal Government from income taxes have not been paid. It looks like we as a people are trying to get from the government all we can and take away everything we can in the way of financial support. If we cannot change that spirit in America we are face to face with the time when our government will not be able to pay its obligations. There is no such trend at present; the government is able to borrow all the money it needs at a very small per cent of interest, but if the spirit doesn't change, if we do not realize we are the government, that it behooves us to do our part, then the American Republic cannot carry on.