

CHAPEL, February 22, 1934

-- President Wright

Scripture Lesson: Matthew VIII, 18-22

Today is the anniversary of the birth of the first president of the United States; Ripley to the contrary, notwithstanding. Ripley says George Washington was not the first president, believe it or not. And in one sense he was not the first. George Washington refused to run for the presidency the third time, thus establishing a precedent which has never been broken. It has erroneously been thought that Washington refused to run the third time because he thought a person should not be president more than eight years, but this was not his reason. He told one of his friends that the opposition could beat him if they run nothing but a broomstick. However, he established a precedent and probably a good one.

In his farewell address Washington used without quotations the statement, **Honesty** is the best policy. Whether you believe in being honest or not, whether you are honest at heart or not, whether a nation is honest at heart or not, it is the best policy for an individual or for a nation to be honest in all dealings. Much of the trouble between nations today is due to the lack of honesty. There should not be and would not be so many misunderstandings if nations would tell the truth, if they would come together with open minds and say what their reasons really are for taking certain positions. Most of our difficulties would be solved, and in some way other than they have been solved in the past if those in authority would be honest with one another and with the people whom they serve. **Honest IS** the best policy.