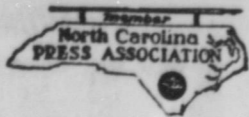


THE ZEBULON RECORD



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BETTING YOUR LIFE

“Have faith in God.”—Mark 11:22.

Never seriously in my life have I bet. Yet from boyhood I have used the expression, “I’ll bet.” In sports many feel that a small bet placed adds something like salt to food. Wherever the human element enters there is always a chance, a possibility or probability that makes the issue one that is a “gamble.” Owing to the lack of conditions, facts and many other things dependent of human weakness or strength, nothing is sure or certain. There is never any certainty in betting on anything in which the human element is the deciding factor.

Youth does not care specially for safe propositions, and many of us never grow up! Hazard calls us. The spice of risk runs in our blood. Every adventure is the great adventure. All admit the truth and the appeal of taking a chance as stimulating. But a recognition of this appeal does not in any way justify its acceptance as wise or safe. The World War was a gamble and all lost! Yet today thousands are willing and ready to bet on their country’s winning.

This element of adventure was placed in the heart of man for a purpose quite different from our usual application of it. From birth to death life is one constant succession of taking chances. Otherwise, one would never stir, but remain anchored till death ended his fear and suspense. Life is a constant succession of taking chances based on human conditions. This is what we call faith. We meet this risk element in every phase of life by having faith in the strength of things and the dependability and ability of man. Mountains are scaled, bridges are built, battles won, fortunes made, by projecting life forward by faith. “By faith,” Paul suggests the source and success of all man’s accomplishments through the ages.

The question then, is not are we going to live by faith, for we are doing that already. The all-important thing is what sort of faith is it? When one bets and loses, what will be left? We speak of betting on a “sure thing.” This is entirely possible. Does God have a part in your betting? Does he back you? Shakespeare said, “’Twas chance, but thou God didst direct it.” That makes betting a certainty. Others base their bet on the certainty of material things, and lose. Christians bet on the reality of God and Jesus Christ and win every time. Christianity is no slot machine contraption, losing a hundred times and winning once.

Another has well expressed it, faith, believing God, is betting your life that there is a God, and the very kind of God whom Jesus has revealed. This makes life a bet, a venture, but there is no other way, nothing else one can do. “Playing the game of life” with God backing we can’t lose. Men bet and lose both life and soul. Christians bet and men say they lose all, that is all in sight, but win in eternity. Jesus says, “launch out, believe, follow me, give up your life and you will win. When God says bet, risk, take a chance, believe Him. The big chance, the big stake, is before every man. Have we that faith in God such that we are willing and ready to stake our possessions, life, soul on the proposition: There is a God and the kind Jesus has revealed to us? That He will keep His promises toward us?

Having faith in God, taking him at his

word, I bet my all that I’ll have a home surpassing that of earth’s grandest mansion, riches beyond compare and a life that shall never end. Yes, I “have faith in God,” so I bet on him, his Son and his promises.

“HERE’S TO WAKE FOREST . . .”

For more than a third of a century I have watched with a deep, well-wishing interest the growth and progress of Wake Forest College. In the passing of the 18th century I entered its walls as a student, raw and fresh from the mountains of the West. Three hundred other boys and young men were there with me, most of them for the same purpose. It was in the days when Carlyle and Taylor and Royall with Mills and others were in their teaching glory. Paschal, Crittenden, Gorrell and Cullon were yet young men. There were others space forbids my mentioning. A half dozen buildings stood straggly across the campus. Students roomed in homes and ate at little clubs.

When I return from time to time, often enough to keep in my mind’s eye the full changing picture, I cannot refrain from thinking of the change. Unlike the rebuilt Jewish temple, however, nothing but joy and gratitude today fills the hearts of the hundreds of students gathered there and thousands of alumni scattered to the four corners of the earth. Medical, science, athletic, administration, and other buildings now stand out in orderly setting, while within and without a very hive of human bees go on their mission of getting and storing knowledge.

Among the many things accomplished during the aggressive administration of President Kitchin, perhaps no other thing has meant what the removal of the medical department to Winston-Salem will mean to the denomination, and especially to the state and world generally. No medical school can accomplish its best unless it has access to people—sick people. Through the years Dr. Carpenter and his colleagues in the school of medicine have been greatly handicapped by this lack. Not only the Baptist hospital but the whole of the city of Winston-Salem will furnish a human laboratory for student study. A good school for doctors will now become a great university for physicians and surgeons.

The recognition by the Bowman foundation of Wake Forest is but the beginning of a name and a fame that shall place this department of the college as well as the college itself in a field peculiarly fitted to enable her to give more abundantly in her ministry to make men wise and well.

“Here’s to Wake Forest” . . . in His name. Amen!

NATIONAL COTTON COUNCIL

An old friend and Raleigh business man called to see us a few days ago whom we were glad to see. Outside friendship gossip begun in college days we were glad to talk with him about a matter we believe ought to be of deep interest to every citizen, especially cotton growers. We refer to Hugh Johnson, representative of the National Cotton Council. There is immediate need for farmers and manufacturers to get together in some kind of organization to save the farmers from a situation that demands remedial action quickly.

Here are the undisputable facts confronting the country: The surplus of cotton is the largest in history. The world price of cotton is the lowest in history. World consumption is steadily increasing, but consumption of American cotton is decreasing both at home and abroad. To date we have tried to solve the problem by reducing cotton production—we have done virtually nothing to solve the problem by increasing cotton consumption.

There is no permanent solution of the problem of increased supply except by creating a greater demand. This can be done at home and abroad by co-ordinating and uniting the efforts of the entire cotton industry to this end. Co-operation of grower, manufacturer and consumer will solve the problem to the benefit of the country generally.

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