

ORAL HISTORY 00-00-20

William J. Gordon

Baccalaureate address May 23, 1965

William J. Gordon talked about the world in 1965. He said our world is what we make of it. There are people in our population who are not concerned with what goes on in the world, our government or neighborhood except that which affects their own welfare. He said the man who lives to himself will die by himself. Likewise a city, university, state or nation that would live unto itself also dies unto itself. We need to find the answers and take a stand. We have to accept our own responsibility and take our risks. A pattern of life needs to be chosen and lived in accordance with it. Subjection just to the demands of the material world may make slaves of all of us. There are some things in life that can be known by committing oneself. By making daring commitments we can know what life really is. Safety and certainty are luxuries we don't have in this world. We can't know all the answers. He talked about Grant and Lee acting on their beliefs. You must be subjectively righteous. The only right course is to follow the best that you know. Being true to ourselves we do have to be objectively right but we have to try to be. He talked about being in Burlingham, Alabama. There were those that became involved and at great cost to themselves. He talked about legalism. God did not design His world that way. Life is not a set of frozen situations but a dynamic living changing thing. God judges not by law but by our intentions. That is what it means to be justified by faith. He believes that there is good purpose in the world.