Progress (Phillips Univ. Chapel 2/21/65)

Eph. 4:11 ff.

Intro. A. Reference to possible embarassment over high chair and tall pulpit.

B. Dilemma of the lights: when on, stuck; when off, counting.

C. This month remember Washington & Lincoln, two tall men in American history.

D. TV program of 3 yrs. ago.

1. If these men lived today, could he vote. Such is our progress.

2. And we have progressed. No days passes but what we are more comfortable, more enlightened than were our fathers. Places in dad's geog. book you see in passing; diseases that filled land with infant graves now non-existant. Areas of life draped in baffling mystery now uncovered by understanding.

3. Too bad about Washington, Lincoln; victims of lack of tools & ignorance.

E. Then I remembered him who stands taller than Wash. or Lincoln - Jesus of Nazareth. Since he lived, we enjoy 2000 yrs of progress, but if he alive today, could we save him? Have we erased causes of his death: greed, envy, love of position & power, prejudice? Or would he, in spite of "progress", find waiting for him a cross?

F. You doubt it? How long since you returned to your room with hammer & nails in your hands?

I. Progress: what is it?

A. So easily said, so often said - civic leaders, politicians, teachers, preachers.

B. On most college campuses, a shrine to progress, and in this shrine all the symbols of its worship.

C. Man in gray flannel suit.
1. Yet - Ill. I saw him steal a newspaper
2. Yet, he stole a 3¢ pair of buttons.

D. Greater income.
1. Not surprising in an economy of abundance.
Use people, love money.
2. Yet daily see the failure of it. Man in hospital agony. Kills & dies, misses it in wife & child. children chase butterfly and catch painted dust. Misery & life promise lost in its fulfillment.
Ill. - Fruit basket in Mother's Hell.

what money cannot buy, money cannot buy most valuable - time, air, food, water, love, God, education, faith.

E. Power and Speed.
1. Common symbols of progress. Display of it defy description.
2. Yet, is it progress? No matter if in latest model, air-cond., no speed limit, 4 lane - of wrong road.

F. Education.
1. Hailed as panacea. Not so.
2. ~~Ill. Educated African~~ often produces pride & critical spirit.
3. Ashamed of parents. Critic of old SS. class back home.

G. Freedom.
1. Reared in permissive society. Liberty hell.
2. Students everywhere revolting.

H. Many disillusioned assume posture of critic, skeptic.

II Progress Redefined.
A. Maturity; growth toward purpose, above the trivial, away from artificial to genuine, from immediate to ultimate.
B. And what is maturity? Most evident when no effort to prove one. See it? Notice it's the fool, the weak, the unenthusiastic, poor, unimportant, slave who are trying to prove.
C. Resources for such progress are yours, now.
Ill. - Like" housewife gathers fruit, vegetables.
D. Maturity is to submit to discipline of purpose. To take invitation of one's endowment & work for his voice - This I must. Each marches to distant drum. Hard for boy who says I must. Each marches to distant drum. Hard for boy who says I must. Each marches to distant drum. Hard for boy who says