Chapel Speaker Muses

‘A Place Of Slaughter’

By DICK VIEBIG

Thresher Religious Editor

“This altar is suggestive of a place of slaughter.” This characterization of the altar in the Rice chapel set off uncontrolled laughter at the first chapel service of the year last Thursday night. The speaker was the Rev. H. Grady Hardin of Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, a dynamic speaker with a dynamic challenge for the students and faculty of the Rice campus.

Slaughter In Classroom

Mr. Hardin continued by saying that the altar on our campus is a symbol of our need to sacrifice ourselves. By running the risk of slaughter in the classroom, by completely giving of ourselves, we have the opportunity of gaining new insight and knowledge. The same need for slaughter on the altar calls for a willingness to lay our lives out and have them destroyed. But since there is no guarantee that this openness will be filled, most people remain on the nice, comfortable side of the pew and never really put themselves on the altar.

Guest Speaker

“The altar takes on meaning because God Almighty, Creator of the Universe, has spilled his life there.” As a result, sacrifice on the altar brings not destruction, but transformation to new creation on the other side of the altar. Our offering of self-giving is only a response to God’s offering, but it means the discovery of the real possibilities of life. Mr. Hardin concluded by calling on this community of scholars to continually recognize the altar as the symbol of God’s sacrifice for us and our need to give ourselves to Him.

A new schedule of chapel services will be in effect October 7 and 8 when the Rev. Wayne Mahan will speak. To make it possible for more students and faculty to attend the chapel services, noon-day services will be held at 12:35 o’clock on Wednesday and Thursday. They will be preceded by an organ concert beginning at 12:20. The Thursday evening service will be held at 7:15 o’clock as usual.

Church and Education

The topic of Mr. Mahan’s address will be “The Church and Education.” Mr. Mahan is rector of St. Alban’s Episcopal Church, Waco, and is a member of the board of trustees of the conference center of the Diocese of Texas.