Religion On Campus

Topic: Sin, Righteousness and Judgment
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Professor W. J. B. Martin of the Church of Scotland chose the three-fold topic of sin and righteousness and judgement as he delivered an impressive address in the Rice chapel last Thursday night. He suggested that a depth in living is necessary to understand these subjects.

Of sin, Dr. Martin observed that many people feel the great sin is being found out, others that it is not conforming to the standards of society. Often people have a nagging nameless sense of sin for which they cannot forgive themselves; and are driven to some form of self-abuse which may result in nervous disorder or other physical manifestations. Real sin, however, isn't a breach of social convention, but is against God in failing to recognize what He has done in Jesus Christ.

Dr. Martin observed that Americans are obsessed with righteousness, as society and church make various appeals along this line. A deeper view is seen when righteousness and the resurrection are considered together, for in Christ going to the Father the strength and resources for living a righteous life are made available to those who believe in the resurrection.

Judgment, then, matters because Christ was in history and all are in judgment before Him today. This opens the opportunity for real meaning in life to those who let Christ precipitate crises in their lives and so lift them from their own shabby lives by His generosity in judgment.