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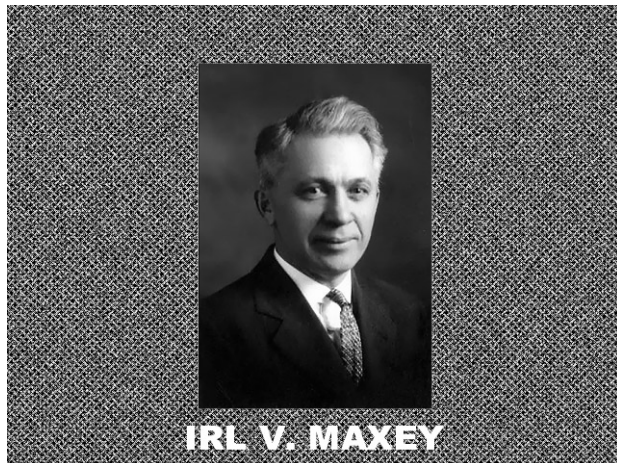
**TO THIS END WAS I BORN
A Sermon By Irl V. Maxey**

**Digitized and Edited
By Duane V. Maxey**

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INTRODUCTION TO THIS FILE

This sermon is dated October 18, 1913, and was written at Imbler, Oregon. This was about two months before the birth of my brother John and nearly two years before the birth of my brother Parker. It is a message that urges individuals to find and pursue their God-ordained purpose in life. In light of what our father says in this sermon, I find it interesting to note that my brother Parker related to me how he had desired to become a doctor, but had to suppress that inward desire and, instead, answer God's call to preach the gospel. Without undue prejudice, I believe I can say that Parker's impact on this world for Christ as a holiness preacher, writer, and leader was far greater than that which he could have exerted as a physician. He made the right choice, and I am very confident that he was glad that he did, and he was blessed of God in it. Our father also found his God-ordained vocation has a

holiness preacher. "To this end was he born, and for this cause came he into the world." As I send forth this sermon into the world, I pray that God will bless it to the glory of Christ and to the increased reward of our beloved father, I. V. Maxey. -- Duane V. Maxey, (Ahwatukee) Phoenix, Arizona, January 23, 2006.

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Our text will be found in the thirty-seventh verse of the 18th chapter of John: "To this end was I born."

SERMON TEXT: -- John 18:37 -- "Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. **TO THIS END WAS I BORN**, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice."

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TO THIS END WAS I BORN
A Sermon By Irl V. Maxey

Pilate asks Jesus if He is the King of the Jews, and He says, "To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world."

Now we wish to take this text and with the old, oaken bucket of God's eternal care for man and draw from the deep wells of eternal truth and give your souls a refreshing draught that will make you wiser and your souls happier in Jesus.

Now look at the text and let God speak. "To this end was I born."

"To this end" -- for this purpose -- for this vocation came I forth into this world.

There never could be -- there never was -- such a thing as the fortuitous concourse of atoms to make up magnitude of any kind -- whether planetary or mundane. He who reads the silent letters of the foundation of this earth cannot help but feel a deep purpose in the existence of all things -- whether they are traceable to man or not. In God's plans for this earth, great necessities sprang forth. Therefore, "necessity is the mother of invention."

There are needs of literature, invention, and lives with a definite work. At one time someone took his pen which was on fire with truth and dipped it in the ink of eternity, and wrote: "Haste makes waste," and on through the years it has gone to instruct souls that to hasten foolishly is to waste opportunity. No greater axiom was ever uttered.

Again, there was a man looking out over the battlements of past history, reviewing the past records of honor and shame, gathering the truth in one nice bundle, flung out the maxim:--

"Honor and shame from no condition rise;
Act well your part: there all honor lies."*

[*From Alexander Pope's "An Essay on Man" -- written in 1733-34 -- Pope was an English essayist, critic, satirist, and poet. Information gathered from online sites.]

Confronted by this truth, men step higher toward God.

The young man, Bryant, just graduated from school, walking out to start the practice of law and feeling discouraged because he had not found a place so far, he lifted his face up toward the sky. The sun had sunk beneath the west and golden twilight painted the sky. As he looked he saw some waterfowls flying along and their bodies were painted along the crimson sky. This came into his mind: Ah, "He Who from zone to zone guides through the sky thy boundless flight, in the long path that I must tread alone, will guide my steps aright" (From "Ode to a Waterfowl" by William Cullen Bryant). He paused to think how God calls all men and guides them. He looked toward the sky and said, "Thou art gone, the abyss of heaven has swallowed up thy form, but upon my heart, deeply has sunk the lesson thou hast given, and will not soon depart." From this experience came "Ode to a Waterfowl," a poem that God has so wonderfully blessed.

God was once looking out over the fields of men's action and said there is a need and forthwith came the revelation of His will to men, recorded faithfully and now known everywhere as the Bible. Every word of it was written to meet the needs of men. "For this cause came I into the world." Who will deny that God has used literature to speak to man, and for this purpose brought it forth? -- and also crowned the Bible the King of all Literature. "Thou sayest" it, "to this end was I born."

God has a purpose in bringing inventions into this world. From the time of Tubalcain till Edison, God has had a definite purpose in them all. Look at Morse in quiet study trying to perfect his inventions till his brain is clouded and he falls on his knees and prays to God. A little later Congress is in session and Edison has asked for help to build a trial-line from Washington to Baltimore. The hours till the close could be counted on the fingers of one of your hands. No doubt Morse prayed again. Just before midnight, Congress voted him \$30,000 dollars of the people's money to try his invention and the first message sent to Washington [on May 24, 1844] by his daughter was clicked through [in Morse Code]: "What hath God wrought!"

Now I come to the main part of my text:-- the purpose of God in every human life -- "To this end was I born."

God has never called a life into existence, whether it be long or short, without a purpose. God has purposes in his plans as man does. Will you tell me that the brick building being put up down there on the corner is being built for nothing? Ah no, the builders have a purpose. I will tell you that bundle of bones, flesh, nerves, brain-tissue, etc. God has constructed as man is more wonderful in architecture than Christopher Wren's St. Paul's Cathedral [in London, the dome peak of which is 366 feet above the pavement] -- more wonderful than Phidias' Parthenon, or Michael Angelo's Celestine border.

Every man must have a vocation, for God intended him to have one. There are many misfits in this world in their vocations -- all because they have not chosen rightly. Some are making sermons that should be making plowshares or shoes. Some are doctoring that should cling to plow-handles. Some are studying blueprints that should study Blackstone* and vice versa.

[William Blackstone's Lectures on Law -- "Blackstone's lectures were published as the Commentaries in England between 1765 and 1769. An American edition published in Philadelphia between 1771-72 sold out its first printing of 1,400 and a second edition soon appeared." -- From an online site]

How awful to be a man that won't fit in the vocation he has chosen! The first thing, in choosing a vocation in life, is not to ask parents, friends, or preachers, but ask God. He knows the span of life you are to follow and knows what ancestry has given you and what you can do with what you have. Pray, until God shines about you like He did Paul and He fills your heart, and then like Paul ask, "What wilt thou have me to do?" A call constitutes a vision of the field, and this God will give you. Then will follow, a conscious ability to enter this field.* This is known by your inclination from childhood on up. Everybody has an inclination for certain things and this will be understood when God shines in our heart, and thus grabbing hold we can say, "To this end was I born."

[*Without a desire to be overly-critical of papa's statement, I will just say here that many whose God-revealed purpose has been that they should preach the gospel have felt no such "conscious ability to enter this field." I think we would have to say that "sometimes" the revelation of God's purpose for one's life is accompanied with "a conscious ability to enter this field" but sometimes it is not.]

Even with all this, we must take into consideration the advice of parents and friends in deciding, for exterior motives must enter in. No chosen vocation should be primarily to make money or to earn a livelihood. As Hale says, "We must consider our fellowmen." The poet said:

"I slept, and dreamed that life was Beauty,

I woke, and found that life was Duty."

-- Ellen Sturgis Hooper, 1816-1841.

It must be duty to men -- the most wholehearted, loving service. Secondly, we must earn a livelihood. This will come of itself.

The inclination will come sometimes late -- most usually between ages 15 and 17, if they give their hearts to God and follow Him.

In special calls, away late in life. Lord Erskine followed the navy four years, then the army, and while in the army he visited a court scene and there caught the vision and later became Lord Erskine and High Chancellor of England. Some apples ripen in June, some in July, August, September, October, and some are not fit for use until Winter is past.

Now let me say in conclusion that as Jesus was born to be crowned the King of Heaven, we are born to use our vocations so as to be crowned in our lives in the end. We are born for heaven and the angel of our hearts will always be homesick for heaven.

O, come to God! and give him your heart, and with this mighty vision launch into life knowing full-well you are launching for eternity. When the mists of earth are rolled away, may Jesus appear on the scene with "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord" (Matthew 25:21). "To this end was I born."

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THE END OF THIS SERMON