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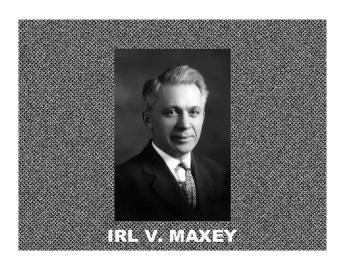
WEIGHED IN THE BALANCES, AND FOUND WANTING A Sermon By Irl V. Maxey

Digitized and Edited By Duane V. Maxey

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## INTRODUCTION TO THIS FILE

Papa noted this sermon as written on November 22, 1913 in Imbler, Oregon -- apparently the second one written on this date, and internal evidence suggests that it was preached at an evening service. Having been born on March 12, 1882, papa would have been 31 years old at the time the sermon was written. My oldest brother John Caldwell Maxey was born just over a month later on December 29, 1913.

From the manner in which it was written, I surmise that this sermon may have been penned much like a rough draft, possibly with an eye toward writing it out more fully and more presentably at a later time. In the notebooks given to me by my brother Gale E. Maxey of Boise, Idaho, most of papa's sermons were written thus. But, while I have endeavored to enhance them for digital publication, I have

endeavored to present our father's thoughts, and not my own, in so doing. Further, I think that these sermons, when preached orally, were probably of much greater length than these brief jottings of his thoughts. Perhaps much like the aid of an outline, they were written partly to fix in his mind the crux of the message, which was then enlarged upon from the pulpit. However, from what I recall my mother telling me, I think papa generally had his thoughts so well-fixed in his mind that when he entered the pulpit he relied little, if at all, upon outlines or notes.

Interestingly, papa mentions a "Katy Flyer" in his opening remarks for this sermon. I did not know what he meant by this name, so I looked it up online, and inserted the meaning in brackets directly after his reference to it. I think perhaps the term "Katy Flyer" may have been widely used in 1913, but I venture to say that, like myself, probably most readers of this file will not know what a "Katy Flyer" is -- or was -- without the explanation. -- Duane V. Maxey, (Ahwatukee) Phoenix, Arizona, February 5, 2006.

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You will find our text in Daniel 5:27:

**SERMON TEXT: -- Daniel 5:27 "Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting."** 

There is a weighing constantly going on in this world, and ah, how unmerciful that weighing, and yet how just. We are weighed in the stores and on the street corners as men gossip, and in different ladies gatherings. Our reputation gathers force in these places, for it is what folks think we are and it goes swiftly on like a "Katy-Flyer" [the name given to a fast passenger train in those days]. But, our character is what God thinks, and comes afterward like a sure, plodding freight [train]. So our reputation is weighed against our character constantly. Oh, that we all lived true so that nothing would be wanting in this weighing! However unjust folks might be in weighing our reputation, like Jesus being condemned by His people, our character will eventually outweigh it -- as the centurion said of Jesus, "Truly, this was the Son of God." (Matthew 27:54).

Then I see another scale, and I see fond mothers and fathers putting what they expect of their boys and girls on this scale. But I look again in after years and lo, what do I see when the real lives of their children are put on the other side? I hear some father say, "I thought he'd be true to his mother. I thought he'd be true to himself. But alas! for hopes! -- all delusions. Alas for his youthful pride!" "Thou art weighed in the balances and found wanting."

Oh, how many godly fathers and mothers are so disappointed in their children! They hoped so much -- yea, even prayed, and their very lives were wrapped up in the lives of their children. But alas! the expected is weighed against the real tonight, and found wanting!

Now I want to tell you of another weighing that goes on -- and that is the weighing of your real life. It is weighed against what is expected of you as a Christian, and also as a citizen. Oh, I am so sorry to say that in this weighing such a vast number of people are found wanting, and I am not so sure but that God has a hand in this weighing. Surely if all were true Christians that belong to church we would soon see this old country of ours in a more blessed state of living. Our saloons would go, our white-slaves would go, yea, our wage-slaves would go. Oh, church members! If you would live so as to not be found wanting, soon would Christ's Kingdom come!

Now listen, non-church member, you have sat there and thought, "That's right! Go after them!" but brother, I'm after you also! You are also weighed and found wanting. You are weighed -- your real life against your citizenship. If you would crawl out of your rut and live right, you could help things along.

Now let me tell you, God does not weigh you the way some might think! He does not put you on one side of the scales and another man on the opposite side. Weighing themselves in such a manner, some people think: "I stand as good a show as Jones does," as much as to say, "God will let brother Jones into heaven, and when I come along God will say, 'Here is a man as just and as good as Jones. Come in, brother.'"

God would not be so unjust! And, God will not put your real character on one side of the scales and what folks think of you on the other side. This is no test, for God knows all the time what you really ARE.

And last, we must say God never weighs your character with what you think your are. I often hear folks tell me what they are doing -- what good folks they are, and sometimes I might say, Well, it does not matter with God what you think, for God knows what you really are. I do not like to see folks deceived, neither does our Father. "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9).

I read in the Bible of one person who thought he was ready, but when he came to the wedding without the wedding garment on, Ah! they threw him out! The five virgins also thought they were ready, but were shut out!

No, God could not weigh us by what we think of ourselves. God will weigh us very carefully and minutely: "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12).

I read that the scales in the government mint are so delicate that if a fly lights on them it will unbalance them! Surely God will not be less careful! God will put you

on one side and the Decalogue -- The Ten Commandments -- on the other side. Will you out-weigh them? Think a minute. Have you stolen things? -- that is, have you things that you did not earn? or were not given? If, in the quietness of this night while you slumber, things would be animate and return to the person who owned them, funny sights would present themselves to us in the morning! Probably some could not go to work for want of clothes. Others would have no house in which to live. Ah yes, Have you stolen things?

You have lied. You have coveted your neighbor's things. You have broken the Sabbath. Oh! "Thou are weighed in the balances, and found wanting." Up you go in the air -- your reputation and what you think of yourself being greatly outweighed by what you really are!

Here comes a real Christian. God proceeds as before. The man is placed on one side, and the Decalogue on the other side -- but Christ steps on with the man. Ah, see how together the man with Christ outweigh the law!

"He'll go with me through the Judgment, And go with me, with me, all the way."

God weighs us every day with His Perfect Law, and we are found wanting, but Christ, with His mercy, comes with us onto the scales and together we outweigh that Perfect Law.\* Glory! We love Him perfectly, and thus He stays our Savior.

[I am sure that my father was not here preaching Antinomianism, or sinning religion, but rather he was saying: When weighed against Absolute Perfection, even a genuinely sanctified, but humanly imperfect, saint of God must have Christ on the scales with him or her in order to not be found wanting.]

Oh brother, that was an awful night when God wrote that awful doom on the walls of Babylon! and when Daniel told Belshazzar he was weighed and found wanting. Consternation seized him. Oh, let it not the Divine weighing thus come to you! Have Christ! so you will not be found wanting, but found trusting. Instant death should mean eternal bliss.

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THE END OF THIS SERMON