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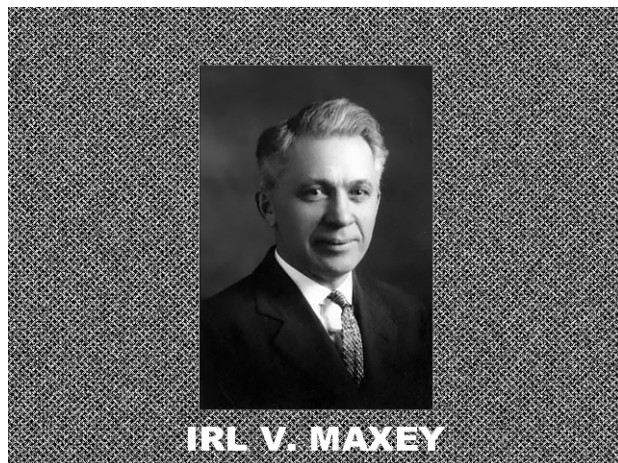
**WORSHIP GOD  
A Sermon By Irl V. Maxey**

**Digitized By Duane V. Maxey**

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## **INTRODUCTION TO THIS FILE**

**The following paragraph may be of little interest to many who read this sermon. However, I have included some such facts as it contains in digital editions of some of my father's writings because I am publishing these files both for others in my father's family as well as for HDM Users at large.**

**Papa dated this sermon February 8, 1907, and noted that it was written in Witt, Illinois. This little town is located on Illinois State Highway 16 northwest of Mt. Vernon, his home-town. Apparently, our father preached both in Irving and Witt, Illinois -- Irving being just southwest of Witt and also on Illinois State Highway 16. Judging from the map, I think that Irving and Witt may be only about 20-25 miles apart. A look at the map shows that the area between St. Louis, Missouri, Irving-Witt, Illinois, and Mt. Vernon, Illinois, form quite near an equilateral triangle. Thus,**

when I was pastoring in St. Louis, Missouri in the 1960s, I was very near both where my father was born in Mt. Vernon, Illinois and where he preached in Irving and Witt, Illinois. Prior to this time, during the summer of 1963, I visited Mt. Vernon and met my father's only living sister at that time, our Aunt Retta Lynn. As I recall, she is the only one of my father's siblings that I ever met. But -- back to the subject at hand. I doubt if either Irving or Witt, Illinois was ever very large. An online site states that in July of 2004, the population of Witt was only 988. The population of Irving in the year 2000 was 2,484. Mt. Vernon is the largest of these three Illinois towns. In the year 2000, the population was 16,269. So, my father's pastorates (if that is what they were) in Irving and Witt, Illinois were probably quite small -- like those that many young holiness preachers when they first embark upon their ministries.

Papa makes it very clear in this message that we are not to worship any human being, and of course that includes our father. But, the Bible does say in Exodus 20:12 -- "Honour thy father and thy mother..." and, in presenting his sermon in this file, I wish to honor both him and the God he loved and served. I pray that God will bless this sermon to the hearts of all who read it. -- Duane V. Maxey, (Ahwatukee) Phoenix, Arizona, January 20, 2006.

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SERMON TEXT: -- "Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: WORSHIP GOD" (Revelation 22:9).

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## **WORSHIP GOD**

By Irl V. Maxey

The scenes of the text are these: -- John had been shown the New Jerusalem -- the Holy City -- He saw its purity and beauty and God told him he had sent His angel to tell him of these things. So overjoyed was John by the grandeur of the sight, which was a promise of God, that he fell at the feet of the angel to worship, because he had brought this great message. The angel said, "See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: WORSHIP GOD" (Revelation 22:9).

Get my text -- just the last two words -- "WORSHIP" and "GOD" -- God the Father. Worship comes from two Anglo-Saxon words: "worth" and "ship" -- meaning to pay homage to, to reward. So you have my text: -- "PAY HOMAGE TO GOD."

First, we will note something of Worship -- Next, Impure Worship, and then Pure Worship.

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## **I. ABOUT WORSHIP**

Someway, down in the hidden recesses of man's nature there is a natural tendency to worship some higher power. Yes, God made man with a natural tendency to worship Him. We worship that which we think helps or harms us. All worship is attended by fear, adoration, and sacrifice.

Yes, God made man with a natural tendency to worship Him -- to recognize His power, to fall at His feet, to love Him and talk with Him face to face. We know that Adam and Eve talked with God. But, 'tis not that way now. Man sinned and fell away from God, and his understanding became darkened. His sin closed God's ears, and thus he was estranged -- but still man's worshipful spirit led him to worship the things of nature and his own fixtures -- the work of his own hands.

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## **II. IMPURE WORSHIP**

Now let us notice this Impure Worship. All impure worship is idolatry. Idolatry is anything that separates us from God -- anything that takes our affection, devotion, and sacrifice from Him.

The first kind of idolatry is where they worship things. There is the worship of the elements -- not the rain-water as it falls from the clouds but water as it pours over a mighty fall, as the Niagara -- not the fire as it blazes from the tent or wigwam or house, but as it shoots from a Vesuvius or streaks across the heavens as lightning -- not wind as it gently blows among the leaves of the trees on a warm summer day, but as it tears and plows its way as a cyclone -- then it is that they feel the elements are divine.

Next, there is the worship of stones -- not the little stones that lay along the roadside, but let there be a great rock, one with a peculiar shape or brilliancy, or let even the small stones be used for a purpose such as grinding corn -- then the stones become divine and command obedience.

There is tree worship, the majestic oak, the huge elm, or the perfect ash -- are thought to be so divine that they fall at their feet and pray to them.

Then there is animal worship -- the tiger, the huge white elephant, the apes [ A sacred bull of the ancient Egyptians], the cow or the snake -- all are felt to be sacred, commanding the worship of individuals.

Then there is man -- or hero worship. For ages and ages, those who do some great thing, or who have a peculiar tendency toward good, have been recognized as

being a god, and after death huge images of stone have been made of them, and people have fallen at their feet to worship them.

Then there is the worship of the thing through an image. We have had a great deal of that in modern times. In the early history of the Hebrew nation you know that the brazen serpent was idolatrously lifted up [2 Kings 18:4 Hezekiah "removed the high places, and brake the images, and cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brasen serpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it: and he called it Nehushtan" = "a thing of brass."] and now in churches we have statues of the virgin Mary, and statues of the apostles and of the Cross.

Now, as we said, all worship is attended by fear, adoration, and sacrifice. So we find the American Indian, fearing the noise of the great Niagara, falling there to pay sacrifice on the bank, or fearing the flash of lightning or the thunder's roar, or the swift hurricane -- falling prostrate before such and paying homage.

So we see the fire-worshipper come before the fire bringing their sacrifice. So we see them in olden time falling down before the peculiar-shaped and sparkling stones, or a huge mountain of stone, bringing their sacrifice of meat, water, or incense, earnestly asking help.

Thus we see the people of Burma sacrificing to the white elephant, bowing before it, asking its blessing, or the blessing of the spirit within it. The people of Egypt, falling before the sacred apis, sacrifice to it. The people of India worshipping the cow, asking its blessing and so on.

Last, see nation after nation of people falling down before its heroes, calling their spirit to fall on them. In Egypt, in China, in India, in Japan, or even in America, who sees the monument of Lincoln at Springfield -- a hundred feet high, I guess. Go to Washington and see the monument of Washington towering 555 1/2 feet high, or the monuments of Grant, Logan, and others -- who sees these monuments and feels not that America is guilty of hero worship? Who will go to the battlefield of Gettysburg where Lincoln made his famous speech -- to the place where he made his first rails, or to the place where he lived, and feel not like falling on their knees and saying, "Let the spirit of Lincoln fall on me."?

Go to the places where any great American did things, or where he lies entombed. Ah, go even to the graves of your loved ones and still you feel and adoration. AH! WORSHIP GOD!

All worship is attended by ceremony and rite, and its is a general rule that the more heathenish and superstitious the people, the longer the rite. About the longest I read of was that of the Navajo Indians, which took 9 days. So long and complicated was it that on one man could learn it all. They would take up their pipes, go so far being careful not to cross the same path in returning. We have even

this relic of heathenism in the long rite of the ancient Hebrew church, and even handed down to some churches today -- a superstitious idea that unless forms are long they are not sacred. Ah brethren, to this all, let me in the words of Paul say, "Whom you ignorantly worship!

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### **III. PURE WORSHIP**

Let the Savior now say to us as He did to the woman of Samaria: "God is a Spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit, and in truth" (John 4:24). Let the commandment of old ring in your ears this morning:

"Thou shalt not make thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the waters beneath the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me, And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments" (Deuteronomy 5:8-10)

The Dear Lord knew our tendency to worship tangible things, so He sent Jesus Christ, a man, a perfect man -- a God-Man, so they who lived on earth might worship Him, and we who now worship Him, have His image in our hearts and minds. So now, not with the Cross, nor the image of Mary, but with Christ's image in our mind's eye, and in our hearts, we come. "Come, worship before Him, ye His saints."

All worship is attended by fear. That fear is of two kinds: servile, or slave fear, and filial, or child fear.

Hear what David says in Psalm 34:9 -- "O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him."

God would not have you come with the fear of a slave before a harsh master, but come to a Helper, a dear, loving Father. Listen to David say, "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him" (Psalm 103:13).

Ah, come to the Father, the great Helper, this morning!

There will be adoration. This will be expressed by the attitude of the person. I find nearly all places where mentions worship in the Bible they humbly bowed their heads. In the early Church they did this during the Sabbath, but on the Easter morning they all stood up to typify the resurrection. There were distinctly three forms: -- kneeling, bowing prostrate on the ground, and standing. The manner is non-essential, but the attitude of the spirit.

True worship is attended with love that calls for sacrifice. Under the law the came bringing their offering. The sacrifices are now as David said: "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise" (Psalm 51:17).

Ah yes, with a mellow spirit come to Him, but the most vital worship will not be felt until you, with your love, give your all to God.

'Twas a sacrifice of love that made Mary give her box of ointment so costly.

'Twas a sacrifice of love that caused Jesus to got to the cross.

'Twas love that made the soldier put his life on the altar of his country.

'Twas love that caused the little girl of Brunswick -- when they were so far from home that cold night to find a little nook sheltered from the wind for her brother and sister, to then rob herself of most of her clothing to keep them warm, to hunt sea-weed to cover them, and then to freeze to death herself while they were saved.\*

[\*It sounds like papa's listeners knew of this touching story, but unfortunately I know nothing more of it than what he has related above.]

Ah yes, and that soul who comes as a child into the presence of God, who adores Him and puts his or her life wholly over on His altar, gets a vital hold on Him, and most truly worships! "O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness" (Psalm 96:9). Present your bodies a living sacrifice, wholly acceptable unto God" (Rom. 12:1) -- not with a long, drawn-out ceremony, but quickly and quietly come into His presence -- and as you say "Father" He will say "child". You will say, "Father, I love you" and He will say "Bless him!"

Yes, love, joy and peace will stream upon your head. Glory to God forever!  
Amen.

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THE END OF THIS SERMON