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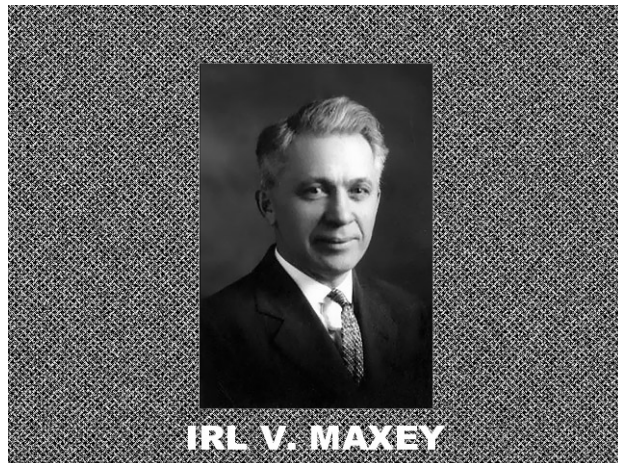
**BE YE RECONCILED TO GOD
A Sermon By Irl V. Maxey**

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

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INTRODUCTION TO THIS FILE

This sermon was written at Imbler, Oregon on February 7, 1914. It is a message that papa must have delivered with passion and anointing -- an evangelistic message that closes with a moving illustration and song. May God bless and use this message widely and greatly while Jesus tarries. -- Duane V. Maxey, (Ahwatukee) Phoenix, Arizona, February 10, 2006.

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SCRIPTURE READING:

2 Corinthians 5:18-21 -- "And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

SERMON TEXT:

2 Corinthians 5:20 -- "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God."

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Oh, the precious word of reconciliation! Be at peace with God. Paul says one mighty fact: God came to the flesh to reconcile the world unto Himself. Christ was that manifestation. Hear Him say: "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden.." (Matthew 11:28). It was the voice of God speaking out of that tenement of clay which the world called Jesus and the Word called Christ.

But Christ's earthly habitation must cease, and He pleads through those whom He calls to preach. "We pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God" - - You who are sinners, you who are rebels to the law of God and enemies of the cross of Christ. You have openly and secretly fought against God. God has not been pleased to have you reject His Son and rebel against His law and against your own good. He wants you to cease rebellion and make His kingdom your loyal home.

We come as ambassadors with a message from the realms of glory. We represent the King. Oh! we feel the awful responsibility! If England and the United States had trouble, we would send a special envoy and he would tell them exactly what the United States would do on terms of peace. He would explain the terms of agreement and urge that England adopt them. Boys and girls, men and women, would occasionally catch sight of our ambassador and would judge the character of the citizens and the spirit of the United States by the actions of the man.

It takes a man of wealth to be an ambassador as Mr. Page* no doubt has found in following Mr. Reid,* but when he is sent as special envoy, all the wealth of the nation is back of him in the message.

[*Here papa refers to Walter Hines Page and Whitelaw Reid. Reid was appointed as U.S. Ambassador to England on March 8, 1905. He died at his post on December 15, 1912, and was succeeded by Walter Hines Page.]

Now we are ambassadors for Christ, the King of kings. Hear the message: "We pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God." You are in rebellion against God and against your own good. If you are yet in sin, Jesus came as special envoy and we take up His message:-- "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Oh, God wants you to have peace and to be at peace with the whole world. Christ breaks the veil, leads men into the Holy of Holies, because He atones for sins. As Paul says, "He hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Oh, people! Hear me! Be ye reconciled to God. Submit to His loving rule. Obey His precious commands, and you shall enjoy the fruit of His love. Oh, He is coming this way, and prepare for Him! Fill up the valleys. Pull down the mountains. Gather up the stones, and straighten the crooked ways. (cf. Isa. 62:10)

Let me tell you, the ambassadors of Jesus are often poor in this world's goods, but they are telling you of the riches on the evergreen shore that fade not away, reserved in heaven for you. "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich" (2 Cor. 8:9).

I have told you of the love of God, but let me tell you, He bids me say He is seeking you. Oh, He will forgive and forget your sins, but most, He wants you. He want you to love Him. He loves you still. Oh, come! Be reconciled to God!

A man and a boy once ran a truck farm. The boy went one morning as usual with his load of vegetables to the near-by town. He had splendid luck, and sold all the vegetables quickly. Having a little time, he thought he would just drop in and play a social game of cards. He played and played. Finally, one of the boys said, "Let's play for a little stake."

The boy was persuaded, and put up some of the vegetable money. He lost. Again and again, he put up money only to lose. At last, the money was all gone and they succeeded in getting him to drink a little. Then he put up the wagon and team, and lost that.

Suddenly he was confronted with the awful fact. He could not stand it to go back home. He a freight train and left for the west. His father came to town and found what had happened. He went back home and told the boy's mother. He made arrangements and went out to seek his boy. He did not care for the vegetables, nor for the wagon and team. These he could replace easily, but he wanted HIS BOY.

He went from town to town. He would preach in the churches and tell the old, old story of God's love, and then with every message he would conclude with the

story of his boy, and say, "If any of you see him, tell him I said I want him to come home. I do not care for the vegetables, team, and wagon, but I want my precious boy at home. We miss him."

One day, the father preached in far-away California, and the boy was in the congregation. His father told the story and said, "If anybody sees him, tell him I love him and I miss him. I want him to come home. I forgive his wrongs and forget them, but I am so lonesome for my boy."

After the service, the boy came to the father and said, "Father, I am so sorry I did wrong! I believe you do forgive me and love me still. I believe you want me back. I will go back with you!"

Oh, friends! God loves you! and sends out the message of His forgiveness and wants you, so you can commune with Him. He seeks you. Oh! Believe Him! and come back! Be ye reconciled to God your Father.

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THE KING'S BUSINESS

Words: E. Taylor Cassel (1902)

Music: Flora H. Cassel

Verse 1

"I am a stranger here, within a foreign land;
My home is far away, upon a golden strand.
Ambassadors to be, of realms beyond the sea,
I'm here on business for my King.

Verse 2

"This is the King's command, that all men everywhere
Repent and turn away from sin's seductive snare,
That all who will obey, with Him shall reign for aye;
I'm here on business for my King.

Verse 3

"My home is brighter far than Sharon's rosy plain,
Eternal life and joy throughout its vast domain;
My Sovereign bids me tell how mortals there may dwell,
And that's my business for my King.

Refrain

"This is the message that I bring,
A message angels fain would sing:
"Oh, be ye reconciled,"
Thus saith my Lord and King,

“Oh, be ye reconciled to God.”

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**Oh, God grant you will hear the message! Oh, Let us be at peace with God,
and with one another. Amen.**

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THE END OF THIS MESSAGE