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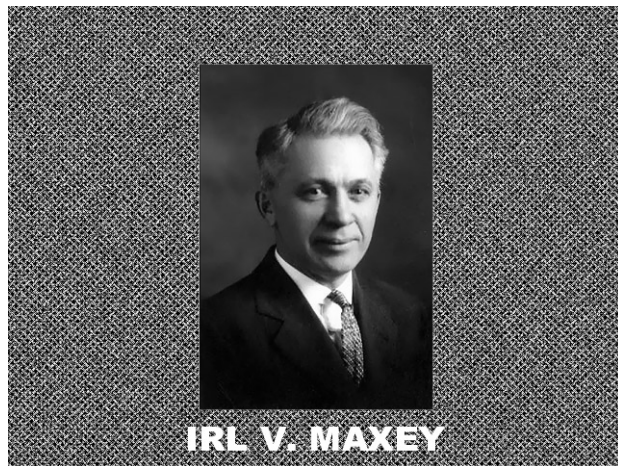
**YE DO ERR NOT KNOWING
An Incomplete Sermon
By Irl V. Maxey**

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

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INTRODUCTION TO THIS FILE

This little portion of my father's writings is undated, unlocated, and unfinished. However, in the notebook wherein it is written it follows "Be Ye Reconciled To God" which was written on February 7, 1914 in Imbler, Oregon. And, the pen and ink used appear to be the same. So, my guess is that this unfinished sermon was also written in Imbler, Oregon, and perhaps close to the preceding date, February 7, 1914. If this be so, I am today digitizing this bit of his work about 92 years after my father wrote it.

It is my hope that the publication of this little unfinished message will be a blessing to all who read it, even though it ends abruptly after a good beginning. -- Duane V. Maxey (Ahwatukee) Phoenix, Arizona, February 10, 2006.

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SERMON TEXT:

Matthew 22:29 -- "Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God."

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I realize this is a day of education and men everywhere are searching for the truth. But, I also remember that this is a day of undue criticism and of bearing away old landmarks and the willful destruction of things that the future generations will wish had not been touched.

The poet Wordsworth* said of a certain tree:

**"Woodman, spare that tree!
Touch not a single bough!
In youth it sheltered me,
And I'll protect it now."**

[*Every online source I checked credited these lines to George Pope Morris, not to the poet, William Wordsworth. Papa's memory probably erred here concerning the author.]

So, I will say, "Critic, spare the Book! Touch not a single page. In youth IT protected ME, and I'LL protect IT now.

The Bible of our fathers and mothers is being torn away. I remember of seeing a picture that deeply impressed me. A mighty flood was sweeping community. The flood was called Sin. A number of people took refuge in a tree called The Bible. To their utter amazement, they saw a man sitting on the bottom limb, heaving away at the trunk of the tree with a sharp axe!

"Stop! Stop!" they cry, "Do you not know that this tree is our refuge and yours too?! Why are you trying to cut it down?!"

"Ah" said he, "I am trying to show you the true nature of the tree, and when I get it cut to the heart I will show you."

But the people told him he might prune, but not hew at the trunk, and they fought him back. So he did not gain much headway.

Oh, let him hew, for the tree will break his axes, because in the tree [God's Word] are many hard spikes which will dull his axe and shiver it to pieces. I am not going to try to defend the Bible. It does not need it. But, I want to help defend your faith in the Dear Old Book.

If I can say some things ere my series of sermons are through that seem to sound strange, first think and pray over them.

The word "Bible" comes from the Greek neuter singular which was put in place of the neuter plural "Biblia" which means "The Books." In the Latin it was written "Biblioteca Divina" and meant Divine Library. All the ancients looked upon the Bible as a collection of books, and we must still recognize that there are 66 books, and not one.

I want to call your attention to three things about this Bible.

First, it is a Divine Library. Some people seem to feel it is one book, and is continued as a book of fiction. *"Barrier's Burned Away" -- "Shepherd of the Hills" or "Hoosier Schoolmaster"* thought Genesis was written first, Exodus next, and so on, till Revelation. We hear such expressions as "away over in Genesis," "in Romans," and "down in Revelation," etc.

[*Here apparently papa was referring to the following three works: -- Edward Payson Roe's "Barriers Burned Away," Harold Bell Wright's "Shepherd of the Hills," and Edward Eggleston's "Hoosier Schoolmaster"]

The Bible is a Divine Library, and does not claim that the books were written in the order named nor the events, some of them, as they occur in the chapters, but they follow this somewhat. The Bible is a full Library, and one does not need to have any others to be educated if he will live in the heart of this Library. It makes him acquainted with both worlds, and tells him how to live.

Lord Stanley started out to find Livingstone and had 999 miles to travel. He took many books with him, but found that his men could not carry extra luggage. So, he had to rid himself of some books, and threw away all but Bacon's Essays.

[Alas! Here ended papa's writing of this sermon -- apparently never finished, at least not anywhere in the notebooks of his writings that I now have in my possession. It was a good start, and leaves me wishing that I had the rest -- somewhat like one feels when the aroma of a tasty meal fills the house and all that is served is the appetizer before you must leave. Following the last paragraph, I think perhaps papa might have thought to go on to say something like: all one really needs on the journey to Heaven is the Bible, and many other books are nothing more than "extra luggage" that impede progress toward Heaven. But then, we are still left with but the incomplete "First" of "Three" things about the Bible he

intended to say. Perhaps some preachers who read this beginning will be inspired to use it as a "Sermon Starter" to develop a complete message. Whatever the case, here ends this file.]

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THE END OF THIS INCOMPLETE SERMON