

## **New Year's Sermon 1/1/23**

### **Maximus the Confessor 580–Aug 13, 662.**

Maximus is honored by the Protestant Church, Roman Catholic Church and Orthodox Church. He was a lay monk. Not a pastor nor priest nor recognized theologian

He defended the biblical truth that our Lord Jesus possesses both a divine will and human will as one person. He was persecuted and tortured for this belief. His tongue was cut out and right hand mutilated.

Years after his death, the church realized their error and recognized that Maximus is right....

### **Maximus on the love of God and neighbor...**

Love of God is always fond of flying off to hold converse (conversation) with Him. Love of neighbor prepares the mind always to think well of him.

It is no small trouble to be delivered from vainglory (bragging, boasting...). An indication of this deliverance is to bear no more grudges against anyone who has offended us now or offended us in the past.

### **Maximus on creation and God**

Seek the reason why God created, for this is knowledge.

God who is beyond fullness did not bring creatures into being out of any need of His, but that He might enjoy their proportionate participation in Him and that He might delight in His works seeing them delighted and ever insatiably satisfied with the One who is inexhaustible.

### **Mart's "Aha" on Ephesians 1 and the words of Maximus on creation.**

All of us want to matter. We do matter. Our holy God became what He loved. Creation. Our Lord Jesus has true matter (stuff) like us and God cannot and will not undo that reality. We matter to God because God has bound Himself up to be one of us and that will never be undone!

### **Maximus in Four Words:**

God is participated, only.