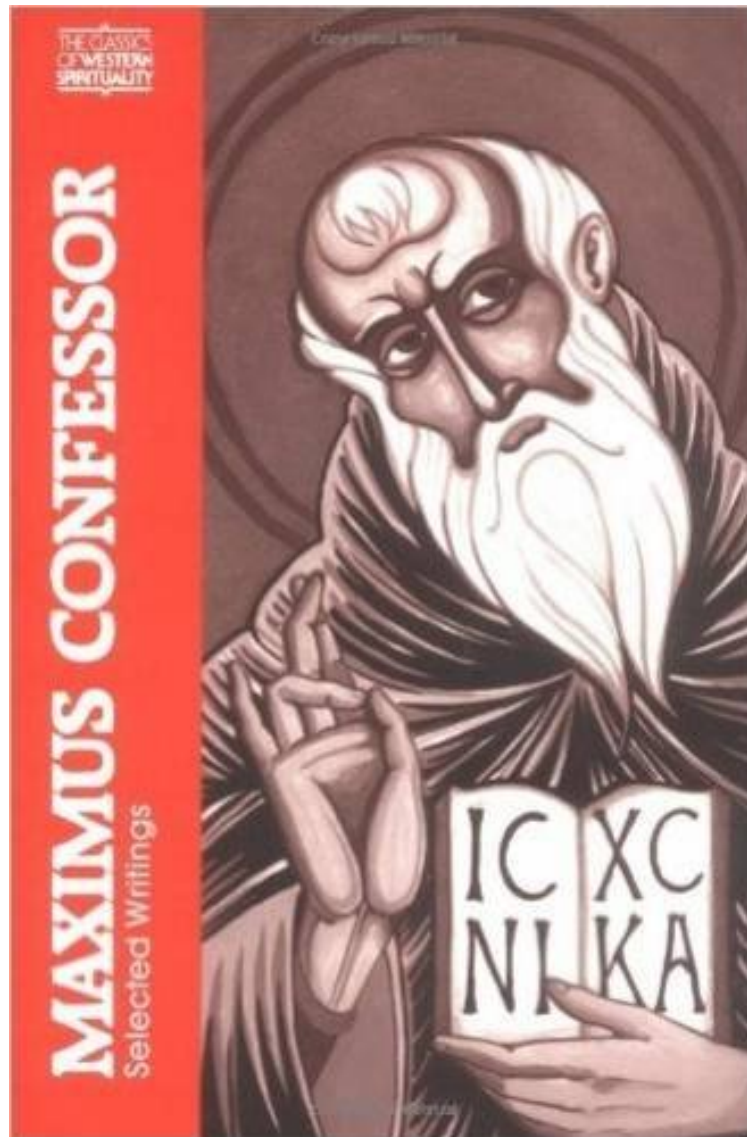


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Maximus the Confessor : Maximus the Confessor: Selected Writings (Classics of Western Spirituality (Paperback)) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Maximus the Confessor: Selected Writings (Classics of Western Spirituality (Paperback)):

58 of 61 people found the following review helpful. Read a Little at a Time By PhiloXSt. Maximus the Confessor lived during the time when the eastern half of the One Holy Apostolic Catholic Church was battling a heresy called the

Monothelite controversy dealing between the unity or duality of will in relation to nature. Today many think the issue was due to cultural language limitations between Greek Arabic, political problems within the Byzantine empire, the rapid spread of Islam. Either way St. Maximus was the champion of Orthodoxy defending the view that Jesus was fully God fully human in his incarnation, therefore he had 2 natures, each nature had a will. Jesus expressed these ideas when he said "Not my will be done, but thy will be done" verses "I am in the Father" which pointed in the other direction. The 1st section of the book deals with St. Maximus's trial before the Byzantine Emperor where many false witness accused the Saint of being against the Emperor. St. Maximus quickly rightly goes to the source of the matter asks for proof, of course there is none, its all hear-say (heresy). For historical note: St. Maximus was finally accused, had his tongue one of his hands cut off, sent into exile where he shortly died. The masterpiece of this book is the 100 Chapters of Love, where St. Maximus takes several scriptures many writings from the Church Fathers, explains in great detail what Love is. The 1st time I read this book, I tried to read it as a whole book, this was a mistake. The 2nd time I read it, I read a verse at a time. St. Maximus writes with such tight exact meaning, that each word is overwhelming. Therefore for maximum (Maximus) enjoyment, read this section like a poem then pray or reflex on each line. Another section is a great commentary on the Lord's Prayer: "Our Father". Each verse gets a few paragraphs of detail. This book is not for the soft hearted or for the easy to read crowd, but for people that enjoy deep books.66 of 70 people found the following review helpful. Maximus to the maximumBy Vincent RossiI am an Orthodox Christian, and I have not only read this book, but as a Maximus scholar, I have lived with it for 15 years, since it first came out in 1985. My original copy is totally dogeared, held together with tape and glue and the grace of a book lovingly valued as precious far beyond its price. Every page is full of notes upon notes in various colors. As it gradually falls apart through much use, I am considering learning the art of bookbinding, so I can preserve it and keep on using it. I am very grateful for Paulist Press for producing this volume, and to George Berthold for the effort and energy (as only one who has tried to translate Maximus' subtle and sophisticated Greek knows just how much effort and energy) it took to translate these texts of the Confessor's. I believe St. Maximus' genius and accomplishments deserve to be honored for what they are and not to be bracketed by disputes and criticisms that, whatever their merit, have no real point in the present setting. Yes, there are other good translations of some of these texts. Yes, the critical apparatus may not be of the highest order. Yes, the theological perspective in the Introduction may not rise to the level or be equal to the content of the Maximian texts. But what introduction could?--and that was not the book's primary purpose. As a basic introduction to the Maximian corpus, the Paulist Press volume on St. Maximus, for all its supposed faults, is still the best single volume to give to someone new to St. Maximus. St. Maximus' greatness lies in the fact that he was not only a brilliant theologian, but an equally accomplished philosopher, as well as a great ascetic and spiritual master of the Eastern Orthodox monastic and hesychastic tradition. He can put more into a single sentence or paragraph than most philosophers or theologians put into whole chapters, or even books. That is why a volume like this one can be read and reread for years and years, always giving one a new perspective or an astonishing view of depths previously unknown or unrealized.12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Maximus the ConfessorBy Andre TerzianThe writings of St. Maximus the Confessor are mandatory for all Christians. St Maximus was a monk near 500-600 AD. He lived at a time when there was argument whether Christ possessed solely a divine nature or if he had dual natures (human and divine). A point that seems very vague to many in the modern world. But St Maximus believed so adamantly in the dual nature that he had his right hand cut off as well as his tongue and left to die. The legacy of writings left behind shed very deep insight on topics like love and theology.In my own opinion you can not go wrong with St Maximus he was an austere monk, that devoted his life to preserving the true meaning of Christianity. He diligently studied the writings of older monks closer to the time of Christ in which we get a clearer view of what it means to really be Christian.

Maximus is called the Confessor because of his sufferings and labors for the true faith. During the seventh century when the monothelite heresy (belief that Christ had only one will-----a divine one) plagued the Church, Maximus eloquently demonstrated that Christ had both human and divine natures. Writing in the introduction to this volume Jaroslav Pelikan highlights the relevance of Maximus' writings for today: "It was the genius of Maximus Confessor that, in a measure that has been granted only to a few, he was fully bilingual, affirming by means of negation and speaking both the language of spirituality and the language of theology with equal fluency. From the looks of things within both Western and Eastern Christendom-----and beyond-----that gift of being bilingual is one that people of faith will need more than ever in the years to come."

Language NotesText: English, Greek (translation)