

THE MAN WHO LOVED GOD'S WORD!

# St. Patrick

St. Patrick lived in England and Ireland about 372-492 A.D. He died on March 17th. On this day we celebrate *Saint Patrick's Day!* How did he become a **saint**? What are saints supposed to do in life? Did he really drive the snakes out of Ireland? His interesting story is found in three ancient manuscripts that are kept at Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland.


His real name was Patricius Magonus Sucatus and he lived in a small village along the western seacoast of Great Britain. His parents were Roman immigrants to Britain and they were rich and well educated. His family was large with five sisters and one brother.

Most important of all, Patrick's parents were true Christians who believed in the living God and had received His Son Jesus Christ as their personal Savior (read St. John 1:12-13)! **1**

Soon Patrick was **praying** (talking to God) every day for direction and help! He did not have God's word to read. He only had the **scriptures** (God's word) that his parents encouraged him to memorize. These verses helped him to follow the Lord now!

Patrick made friends with other slave boys and often they prayed together. Patrick learned more about the Druids who taught people to worship stones, stars, sticks and wells. They offered human sacrifices to evil spirits for **good luck**\*. Patrick refused to go near the secret meetings in the thick forest. He remembered what God had said: "Thou shalt have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3) He thanked God over and over for the Bible verses hidden in his heart which kept him from sin and gave him courage through his six years of slavery!

God's word is powerful and will keep you from sin when you chose to obey Him! One day Patrick heard God speak in his heart and say, "You shall soon return to your own country." Soon after, Patrick saw a way to escape and the Lord provided a ship to bring him back home. He found the village where he lived as a boy, and was thrilled to find his parents still alive! They had only been wounded during the raid when he was taken captive.

 **Good Luck and Good Works Won't Save Us From Our Sin! Only Faith In The Shed Blood Of The Resurrected Son Of God: The Lord Jesus Christ!** **4**

On Sundays he met with his family and the servants for prayer and Bible reading, but his thoughts were very faraway! He wasn't interested in learning about Jesus Christ. To Patrick, Jesus was only a Jewish king with no kingdom, who had been dead for 400 years! Who needed Him anyway?

The Pastor of the village was very concerned about Patrick, and often spoke to him of his need to trust in Christ. Jesus had died on the cross for Patrick's sins and rose again from the grave with complete forgiveness for every sin he had committed. "Yes, I know all about that," he said politely to the Pastor, "but I just want to help out other people and live my own life!" Christ didn't mean anything to him, so he refused the offer.

One day when Patrick was 16, Irish pirates raided his village as his mother had feared! He woke up that night to hear people screaming in confusion! He smelled smoke and saw the buildings on fire! He also saw two of his sisters bound and dragged away! His parents lay still where they had fallen. *Would they die?*

Patrick had no time to find out! He was immediately tied up and marched along with almost 1,000 prisoners down the hill and toward the harbor! Herds of horses, chests of jewels and furs were loaded on board the pirates' ship!

"Please don't ever leave us again!", his mother cried as she hugged him tightly. But Patrick could not forget the beautiful, green island of Ireland and all the people who did not know the true, living God!

Patrick was sure of God's calling him to return to Ireland as a missionary and chose to obey Him. His heart was filled with great joy as he sailed to Ireland in a small boat!

Patrick traveled all over Ireland on foot preaching the **gospel** (good news) of Jesus Christ and winning people to the Lord Jesus! He built small wooden churches protected by high walls of dirt and placed a copy of God's word in each one so the people could write out a copy for themselves. Patrick loved God and spent many hours talking with Him in prayer. Though his life was not easy, God always took care of him and delivered him from many dangers.

Soon other men began to travel with him and they headed for northern Ireland. A great **church** (not a building, but an assembly of believers) was built there. The people were ruled by Chieftains of whom some listened to the gospel and received the Lord Jesus Christ as their savior from sin! Twelve thousand believers were baptized showing they had turned from their sinful ways to follow Jesus.

**Baptism** is the believers first step of obedience to God and is a picture of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ - Matt. 28:18-20; I Cor. 15:1-4. **5**

In the moonlight Patrick saw hundreds of ships! He was forced onto one of them. As it began to sail away, his last thought was, "Oh God, is this my punishment because I had no time for You?" Patrick knew he had sinned because he had not chosen God's way! God's word says, "The **wages** (payment) of sin is death" - Romans 6:23.

The ships landed in northern Ireland near Belfast where Patrick was sold as a slave to a chieftain named Milchu who was a rich, cruel Druid. Druids are witches, warlocks, magicians and sun worshippers! Their work of darkness honors Satan, the devil himself! Patrick's hard life as a slave built muscles, tanned his skin and broke his heart! There was no other hope and life was dull and senseless! He had to fend for himself for everything to stay alive as he watched over Milchu's sheep and pigs.

Patrick's slave life turned his heart toward God. He told God that he was sorry for all his sins and then confessed his sin of carelessness for not believing on God's Son, Jesus Christ. Patrick had now **repented** (changed his mind) toward Jesus, and now believed that He truly was God, by asking Him to save him. Patrick then became a **saint** (a believer who is set apart for God's glory) when he received the Lord Jesus Christ as his savior, according to God's Word - I Cor. 1:2; Ephesians 1:1-4; and Phil. 1:1. **3**

With a three leaf clover, Patrick taught new believers about the **Trinity** (God is One in three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Ghost) and with the Gospel of Christ, he drove the "snakes" (Satanic oppression through the druids) out of Ireland by winning many people to the Lord!

How about **YOU**? Are you like Patrick when he didn't have time for God? Or do you think that Jesus was just a man who lived and died a long time ago? God's word tells us the truth about **Jesus**: He was a man but He is also the living Son of God who lives in Heaven to be your Savior from sin! Just as God answered Patrick's prayer for salvation, even so will He answer yours: "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" - Romans 10:13 **"Dear God, I repent of my sins and do receive the Lord Jesus Christ as my Savior! Thank you for forgiving all my sins and giving me the gift of eternal life! Help me to pray and read your word each day as I follow you! In Jesus name, Amen."**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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