

THE GOSPEL

A copy of Patrick's writings c300 years after his death can be found in the **Book of Armagh** (807AD), stored at Trinity College Library, Dublin. The gospel he preached can be gleaned from these writings and it agrees with the Holy Bible.

There is and ever will be only one gospel God has given to man to be saved from sin:

'As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed... But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.' Galatians 1.9,11-12

'My name is Patrick, I am a sinner...'

Patrick was honest with himself, that he had broken God's laws, which is sin. Have you sinned before? If you have a working conscience no excuse you can conjure up is good enough.

'It was there that the Lord opened up my awareness of my lack of faith.'

First Patrick had to be brought low and convicted of his sin. The Holy Ghost reproves the whole world of iniquity, including you: 'And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.'¹⁵ Have you reached rock bottom yet and are ready to turn to God?

'So I turned with all my heart to the Lord my God.'

After realising he was hopelessly lost, Patrick repented and turned to Jesus as his only hope. 'but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.'¹⁶

'...on that day, where nobody can avoid or escape, but all shall give complete account of the least sins before the tribunal of the Lord Christ.'

He also knew judgment was inescapable, that all must be 'weighed in the balance'.

'Another night... I heard authoritative words which I could hear but not understand... The one who gave his life for you, he it is who speaks in you.'

Jesus became a man, completed his ministry on earth by accepting crucifixion and death. After giving his life for the world to pay for your sin, he revived himself and is currently alive and well.

'It is right to spread abroad the name of God faithfully...so that even after my death I may leave something of value to the many thousands of my brothers and sisters.'

Patrick understood the power of the written word to travel across time. God saw fit to publish his words in sixty-six books, and has preserved every single one across generations, for both sinners and scorners to read today: 'Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.'¹⁷

Having some knowledge of Patrick and the day chosen in his honour, are you willing to believe his gospel, repent of sin and trust in Jesus as your saviour? If so you must of your own self admit your guilt before God, and believe the Lord Jesus Christ was sent by the Father to pay for your sins.

Say a prayer like this: 'Lord Jesus, like Patrick was, I confess to you I am a sinner. I am without excuse and hope in this life and turn to you now for forgiveness and eternal life. I trust you rose from the dead as it is written, and that one day I too will be raised up. Amen.'

¹⁵ John 16.8 ¹⁶ Luke 13.3c-e ¹⁷ Mark 13.31. A copy of these precise words in the English language can be found in the Authorized Version (PCE), bibleprotector.com/XJB-PCE-MINION.pdf

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THE MYTHS

St Patrick's day is celebrated with a pint of Guinness, leprechaun costumes, shamrocks and a host of other traditions. These have taken away from the heart of the day-joy found in the gospel Padraig brought to Ireland.

Like Christmas the time is used as an excuse for drunkards to indulge, yet there is no record Patrick ever touched the poison. There is also the evil lie of alcoholic communion wine: 'Awake, ye drunkards, and weep; and howl, all ye drinkers of wine, because of the new wine; for it is cut off from your mouth.' **Joel 1.5**

Patrick is also credited with driving snakes from the Emerald Isle, corralling them at the top of a hill and into the sea. While only a grain of truth may support such a miracle there are Bible references to serpents: **Serpents would have no power over Christians**: '...[Jesus] they shall take up serpents. . . And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them on the fire, there came a viper out of the heat, and fastened on his hand. . . And he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm.' **Mark 16.18a, Acts 28.3,5**

Unclean spirits (serpents) are cast out in Christ's name: 'So the devils besought him [Jesus], saying, If thou cast us out, suffer us to go into the herd of swine. And he said unto them, Go.' **Matthew 8.31,32ab**

Another myth is Patrick was a Roman Catholic 'saint'. A Briton evangelist, Patrick grew up in Wales where the gospel had been preached already for at least two hundred years: 'all the limits of the Spains, and the diverse nations of the Gauls and the **haunts of the Britons** -inaccessible to the Romans, but subjugated to Christ.'²

A tradition has the gospel taken to Glastonbury, Somerset by Joseph of Arimathea a few years after the Resurrection³. The church there is said to have been the first above-ground Christian building in the world. Other disciples Simon Zelotes, then Aristobulus also went to Britain.⁴ Another early missionary to Ireland was an aged Roman Catholic named Palladius. In 431AD Pope Celestine sent him 'to the Irish believing in Christ as their first 'Bishop'. Despite taking a bag of images the venture failed and after removing to Scotland Palladius died of a fever⁵.

Patrick thought most Irish were ignorant of the gospel⁶ so it is unlikely Palladius went before him. In a similar vein Rome tried to 'hijack' the British Church-in 596AD by sending Augustine who was rejected. It took many years to bring that place fully under the Pope's heel. In 1155, an English Pope Hadrian IV (Nicholas Breakspere) gave the whole of Ireland to King Henry II, who invaded in 1172. In exchange all future Kings of England were to be vassals (slaves) of the Pope. Their subjects also had to pay a poll tax of one penny each year (Peter's Pence 'for St. Peter [!])⁷.

'I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: With whom the Kings of the earth have committed fornication.' **Revelation 17.14,2a**

Rome also sunk to forgery to grab power-documents were simply made from scratch or old ones changed. The most famous are the 'False Decretals' (under Pope Adrian, c780AD⁸), and the 'Donation of Constantine', exploited for over **1,000** years as a claim to the whole Western Roman Empire⁹. The above means any written history of Patrick touched by Rome must be drunk with a cup of salt!

¹ In Catholicism a saint is made by man, in the Bible by God. ²Tertullian, Adversus Iudaeos, c208AD, tertullian.org/inf/inf03/inf03-19.htm#92141_725966 ³R.W. Morgan, Did the Apostle Paul Visit Britain?, Dolores Press, Inc., San Francisco, CA, 1984, p.69. ⁴Ibid. pp. 71,79-81. ⁵Dr W. D. Killen, 'The Old Catholic Church, Edinburgh, 1871, p. 305. ⁶Patrick's Confession, xii. ⁷Cf. Avo Maniatur, Catholic Terror In Ireland, Chic Publications, Chino, CA,1988, pp. 54-56. ⁸orthodoxinfo.com/inquirers/dcretals.aspx ⁹hoaxes.org/archive/permalink/the_donation_of_constantine

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THE MAN

Patrick was born early 5th C near a town 'Bannavem Taburniae' somewhere in coastal Britain. Tradition has his death on March 17, St Patrick's day, which was made popular only from 1766AD. His father Calpornius was a deacon and decurion (city senator) and the family was well off. At sixteen, along with thousands of others he was taken by Irish pirates into slavery, in southern Ireland.

There Patrick found God's love for him and was converted to Christ. After six years he escaped back to his family in Britain on a ship God told him was **322 km** journey away¹⁰. Amazingly he wanted to return to Ireland of his own free will and preach the gospel to the pagans living in darkness.

Two autobiographical writings in Latin exist: **(i)** the Letter to Coroticus **[LTC]** ('Epistola ad Coroticus'); **(ii)** Patrick's Confession **[PC]** ('Patricius Confessio').

(i) The Letter was written to the soldiers of an evil man Coroticus, a Scottish tribal King (over 'Alt Clut') and slaver who ordered Patrick's converts killed during a raid: 'The Holy Spirit sent Patrick to Ireland, not any Pope, and he sold his own inheritance to fund the mission. **(LTC.i)**

Patrick was made a 'Bishop apart from Rome's apostolic succession'¹¹. **(LTC.i)**

He believed in a physical eternal place called hell. **(LTC.ii)**

Baptised believers were assured of an eternal heaven after death¹². **(LTC.xvii)**

Every priest¹³ has the keys to heaven (not just Peter)¹⁴. **(LTC.vi)**

The Letter is littered with Bible quotes showing Patrick believed it his final authority [LTC]: **iv** -John 8.34; **v** -Psalm 53.4; **vi** -Matthew 18.18; **viii** -Mark 8.36; **ix** -Exodus 20.13,17, 1 John 3.14-15; **xi** -Luke 11.23; **xv** -Romans 1.32; **xvi** -Romans 12.16; **xviii** -Matthew 8.11, Revelation 22.15, 1 Peter 4.18; **xx** -Mark 16.16.

(ii) Written in Ireland as an old man before death, Patrick pours out his heart and life story.

He was a simple and uneducated man, looked down on by the 'intelligentsia'. This was because of his lost youth as a slave, and being a native Latin speaker having to learn the Irish tongue. Like Moses he was also slow of speech. **(PC.ix-xiii)**

On his lone escape aged twenty-two he was unafraid, having confidence in God. **(PC.xvii)**

The reunion with his parents took a few years, during which he was taken prisoner for two months. **(PC.xix-xxiii)**

When over forty-five and a Bishop, a fellow Christian brought up an old sin against him. **(PC.xxvii)**

Back in Ireland he was hated, insulted and put in prison many times. **(PC.xxvii)**

During his mission Patrick longed to leave and visit fellow Christians in Gaul (France). **(PC.xiii)**

He refused gifts from converts to avoid suspicion of greed. On the other hand he had to pay protection money to tribal kings and judges for security. **(PC.ii,iii)**

He reached the entire island with the gospel and baptised thousands, most of whom were sun-worshippers **(PC.ii,ix)**

Patrick was willing to give up his life even by torture, and knew he was going to heaven when he died. **(PC.lix)**

¹⁰ Like walking from Sydney to Canberra. ¹¹ A dogma Bishoprics can only be conferred by that Church as a certified link back to the original Apostles. ¹² Roman dogma calls this a sin of presumption. ¹³ A priest is simply a born-again Christian. With Christ, God abolished any special [Levitical] priesthood. ¹⁴ Cf. Matthew 18.18.

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