

“To the End of the Earth”: Medieval Missions and Missionaries

Medieval Church History – Session Three

“You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

—Acts 1:8 NKJV

I. Introduction

a. The Biblical Ground for Missions

i. Genesis 12:1-3

ii. Matthew 28:18-20

iii. Acts 1:4-8

b. Early Missionary Movements

i. Paul to Asia Minor, Greece, and Italy

ii. Thomas to India

iii. Alopen (a Nestorian) to China

c. Missions in the Ancient and Medieval Church

i. Monastic Orders and Monasteries

ii. Individual Missionaries

iii. Pope Gregory I (“the Great”)

II. Three Medieval Missionaries

a. St. Patrick (5th Century; d. AD 461?)

i. Did He Exist?

ii. Patrick’s *Confessio*

1. The Only Surviving Autobiography

2. Selected Readings

iii. The Life of Patrick

- iv. Significance
 - 1. Interesting Points
 - 2. Contributions
 - 3. The Three-Leaf Clover: A Myth?
- b. St. Augustine of Canterbury (d. AD 604)
 - i. The “Apostle to the English”
 - ii. Sent by Pope Gregory II
 - iii. Æthelbert and Bertha
- c. St. Boniface (born “Winfred”; d. AD 754)
 - i. Early Life
 - ii. Early Mission to the Germanic Peoples
 - iii. Commissioned by Gregory II
 - iv. The Franks and Charles Martel
 - v. Significance

III. Conclusion

Recommended Reading

Berkhof, Louis. *Paul the Missionary*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans-Sevensma Co., n.d.¹

Cairns, Earle E. *Christianity through the Centuries*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1996; pp. 171-175.

Patrick, Saint. *Confessio*. Trans. McCarthy. Royal Irish Academy, 2011.
https://www.confessio.ie/etexts/confessio_english#.

Required Watching

“St. Patrick’s Bad Analogies.” LutheranSatire. March 14, 2013. YouTube Video, 3:49.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQLfgaUoQCw>.

¹ This can be downloaded for free in eBook and PDF formats at Monergism.com.