

# Church History

## Patrick

### Missionary to Ireland

#### Ireland

- Untouched by the Roman Legions
- Brought the Gospel of Grace by Patrick the evangelist
  - From two generations of believers
- Patrick's testimony and his mission are documented his own writings
- Clear statement of the Gospel of Grace

#### Early Life

- Patrick was born in the year 373 in a town on the River Clyde in Roman Britain now a part of Scotland

#### Early Life in Ireland

- As a slave, Patrick tended flocks for 6 years

#### Patrick's Conversion

- In captivity he turned from his careless ways and came to a saving knowledge of Christ Jesus

#### Growth in Grace

- Patrick grew in Grace
  - *"More and more did the love of God, and my fear of Him and faith increase, and my spirit was moved so that in a day [I said] from one up to a hundred prayers, and in the night a like number; besides I used to stay out in the forests and on the mountain and I would wake up before daylight to pray in the snow, in icy coldness, in rain, and I used to feel neither ill nor any slothfulness, because, as I now see, the Spirit was burning in me at that time"*

#### Escape and Return

- After six years he escaped and after a difficult journey on land and sea returned to his people in Scotland
- Call back to Ireland where he had escaped
- Victorius
  - *"We beg you, holy youth, that you shall come and shall walk again among us"*

#### Call to Return

- Called again in dream another night
- Makes it clear how he interpreted what was happening by the Scriptures
- Patrick relies on Scripture to understand his experience
- He understood that Christ Jesus, who had died for his sins, was the One who was calling him to work as an evangelist in the very island where he had been held captive

#### Patrick view on Mission

- *"Thus I am a servant in Christ to a foreign nation for the unspeakable glory of life everlasting which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*
- Patrick saw himself as a sinner
- He did not look to some spark of life from within himself or to some ritual; rather, he looked unto Christ Jesus
- Unlike religion that looks to rituals, Patrick had his eyes set on the Lord

## Mission Begins

- 405 – being about 30 years old and together with some brothers in the Lord, set out for Ireland.
  - This date is of great importance because many centuries later, there was an attempt made to confuse Patrick with Palladius, who had been sent out by Celestine, bishop of Rome, as a missionary to Ireland
- 432 – When news of Patrick’s Christian success had reached Rome, Celestine then sent Palladius as a bishop to bring the churches under the control of the of the Church at Rome
  - When Palladius did come to Ireland, it was to an Ireland that had many Christian churches and that did not accept his message of subservience to the Bishop of Rome

## Roman Mission to Ireland

- Palladius was so discouraged that he soon abandoned the field, with his assistants, for north Britain, where he died among the Picts....
- The Roman mission of Palladius failed; the independent mission of Patrick succeeded.
- Patrick is the true Apostle of Ireland, and has impressed his memory in indelible characters upon the Irish race at home and abroad.”

## God’s Grace over the Course of 60 Years

- The work of Patrick and his associates in Ireland was extremely difficult. He came up against the old pagan religion of the Druids
- Baptized many thousands of believers after they had professed faith
- He combated the powers of darkness in the priesthood of the Druids
- He relied on Christ Jesus and the glorious Holy Spirit given to convict people of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He understood grace to be entirely from God

## Establishing Churches

- Established churches and ordained elders
  - The authority of the pastor was one of service, rather than lording it over the people

## Saul Church

### 700 years of Fruitfulness

- Clarity of the Gospel message was to live on for many years after him
  - Columba and his companions who set out for Scotland in 563
  - Columbanus with his companions that went to evangelize France and Germany in 612
  - Kilian – to Franconia and Wurzburg in 680
  - For\*an\*n and twelve brothers to the Belgian frontier in 970
- Covered Europe in the ninth and tenth centuries

## Embezzlement of the Legacy of Patrick

- Coming of the Danes in the ninth century, the Celtic Church in Ireland began to lose its Biblical clarity
- Papal Rome began to unleash military power to bring Ireland under her control
- Decree of Pope Adrian IV issued to King Henry II of England in 1155

## Ireland Given Away

- The Pope authorized the invasion of Ireland and sent the king a ring of investiture as Lord of Ireland, calling upon the monarch
  - “to extirpate the vices that have there taken root, [in Ireland]...saving to St. Peter and the holy Roman Church the annual pension of one penny from each house.”

## Ireland under Papal Control

- King Henry carried out the designs of the Papacy in 1171 and with a strong military force subdued the whole Irish nation
- He received from every Archbishop and Bishop, at the Synod of Cashel in 1172 charters, **whereby they confirmed the Kingdom of Ireland to him and his heirs**
- Papal rulings were sent from Rome to Henry II and to the princes and nobles of Ireland, and to the bishops of Ireland to establish the hierarchy over the people and pastors and enjoin obedience of both Ireland and England to the Papal throne

## Patrick's Heart

- The heartbeat and the soul of Patrick was the Gospel of Christ. He wrote in his testimony,
  - *"I am imperfect in many things, nevertheless, I want my brethren and kinsfolk to know my nature so that they may be able to perceive my soul's desire. I am not ignorant of what is said of my Lord in the Psalm: 'You destroy those who speak a lie and a lying mouth deals death to the soul.' Likewise the Lord says in the Gospel, 'In the day of judgment, men shall render an account for every idle word they utter'" So it is that I should fear mightily, with terror and trembling, this judgment on the day when no one shall be able to steal away or hide, but each one shall render account for even our smallest sins before the judgment seat of Christ."*

## Heritage of Patrick

- Many Irish have grown up engrossed in the rites and rituals of Roman Catholicism
- The wonder of Patrick's life was simply God's grace in Christ Jesus
- Patrick expected the power of God's grace to overcome the priesthood of the Druids
- The battle is the Lord's and the victory will be His
- *"Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."*
- The person of Patrick not deified
  - *"I am a servant in Christ to a foreign nation for the unspeakable glory of life everlasting which is in Christ Jesus our Lord"*
  - *"I, Patrick, a sinner, a most simple countryman, the least of all the faithful and most contemptible to many"*
- the power of the faith of Patrick
  - spiritual vitality was solely in Christ Jesus by the Holy Spirit