

Some Scripture Verses Patrick Quoted

“I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment” (Matthew 12:36).

“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16:16).

“The Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought” (Romans 8:26).

“I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy; and I will say to them which were not my people, Thou art my people” (Hosea 2:23).

“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come” (Matthew 24:14).

“Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised)” (Hebrews 10:23).

“The world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever” (I John 2:17).

St. Patrick's Breastplate Prayer

I bind this day to me for ever.
By power of faith, Christ's incarnation;
His baptism in the Jordan river;
His death on the Cross for my salvation;
His bursting from the spiced tomb;
His riding up the heavenly way;
His coming at the day of doom;
I bind unto myself today.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

I bind unto myself the Name,
The strong Name of the Trinity;
By invocation of the same.
The Three in One, and One in Three,
Of whom all nature hath creation,
Eternal Father, Spirit, Word:
Praise to the Lord of my salvation,
Salvation is of Christ the Lord.

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Saint Patrick's Confession



“There the Lord opened the sense of my unbelief that I might at last remember my sins and be converted with all my heart to the Lord my God ... hence I cannot be silent ... For He Himself has said through the prophet: ‘Call upon me in the day of thy trouble, and I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.’”

- *Confession of St. Patrick*



Patrick's Christianity



scious of his unworthiness and lived in grateful service to Christ who had died for his sins.

Patrick's Faith

Patrick's writings reveal no connection with green beer, snakes, shamrocks, leprechauns or Rome. But his *Confession*, written "to strengthen and confirm faith," is full of God, who is clearly the God of the Bible: all-powerful, all-knowing, eternal, Trinitarian (Father, Son and Holy Spirit), merciful, gracious, near. Patrick's message, saturated with Scripture, was that the God of the Bible, the only true and living God, who rules over all, who will judge the wicked one day, by His wonderful grace saves sinners like himself from "living in death and unbelief." The resulting change he witnessed in the Irish was "those who never had a knowledge of God, but until now always worshipped idols and things impure, have now been made a people of the Lord, and are called sons of God."

Patrick confessed that there was nothing in him that attracted God to choose him. He saw himself "like a stone lying in the deep mire; and He that is mighty came and in His mercy lifted me up." He testified, "It was not grace of my own, but God, who is strong in me." This is the message of the Bible from beginning to end: "Salvation is of the LORD." God's way of salvation is Christ's coming down from heaven "to seek and to save that which was lost," "to give his life a ransom for many." Why only this way? "That no flesh should glory in his pres-

ence." God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, must have all the glory: "my glory will I not give to another." Patrick believed in and loved this God. He praised and thanked Him for such unmerited salvation. God alone had saved him, so He alone must be praised.

Patrick's Challenge

Patrick's writings are priceless pieces of Irish literature—the oldest existing—but their true value lies in the questions that they raise. Who is the true God? Confronting paganism, Patrick directed his readers to the God of glory and grace revealed in the Bible. Notions of God ought to be given a credibility check. On what grounds may one's ideas about God be deemed true? Patrick's God had demonstrated His reality in creation and redemption. For Patrick, people rebel and defy the true God and thus deservedly face His anger. How are those under God's just wrath rescued? Patrick testifies to God's mercy and grace, through Christ, converting him by the power of the Holy Spirit. Prior to being "roused up" by God, he confesses the problem was not a lack of available light: "It was my sins that prevented me from fixing in my mind what before I had barely read through."

Reader, the God whom Patrick feared became His Saviour and Father. This changed his world. He was never the same again. Is this not authentic Christianity that Patrick confessed? Is it your confession?



St. Patrick, the 5th century missionary to Ireland, is popular. Undoubtedly, he is the world's most famous patron saint. Of no other can it be said that by the time they died they had converted a nation. So, while the world turns green and everybody discovers their Irish connections, letting him speak again with living warmth and Celtic passion cannot be a bad thing.

Patrick's Life

Kidnapped around the year 405 from Bannavem Taburniae (somewhere on the west coast of Britain) at 16 and enslaved for 6 years in Ireland, this was for Patrick an expression of God's wrath because he had "turned away from God, and did not keep his commandments." While in slavery, God converted him in His "mercy" and "great grace." He escaped, only to return with the gospel and undertake "such a holy and wonderful work" that would transform the Irish nation.

"How came I by this wisdom, which was not in me," he asked, "who neither knew the number of my days nor knew what God was? Whence was given to me afterwards the gift so great, so salutary—to know God and to love Him, although at the price of leaving my country and my parents? ... I am very much God's debtor, who gave me such great grace." Patrick was con-