

Today is Saint Patrick's Day so I thought I would introduce our 11:00 service with what little we know about the only evangelist celebrated by our nation.

**SAINT PATRICK - MISSIONARY TO IRELAND**

We have difficulty placing Patrick in history. Even our dictionaries and encyclopedias can't agree when he was born, or when he ministered. What little information we have about St. Patrick indicates he served as a missionary to Ireland in c. A.D. 400. Patrick was apparently an Englishman who was kidnapped and taken to Ireland as a slave.

He was later ordained by an early church Bishop on the continent of Europe (either in France or in England). All of this taking place before the Catholic Church became a formidable international body. Recall Constantine, the father of Catholicism, was converted in approximately A.D. 325. Because of Patrick's previous lifestyle his ordination was contested and required a great deal of penance. Most conclude his trip across Ireland and voyage across the channel were rife with various sins--many involving crimes of moral turpitude.

Much of the information contained herein comes from a very brief autobiography obtained from a book written by Thomas Cahill entitled *How the Irish Saved Civilization*.

The life of a shepherd-slave could not have been a happy one. The young boy had been taken from his family and shipped across the channel to a strange land. Patrick was without family to take care of him. He learned early-on how to take care of himself. His only protection came from his master. His master was a man who did not hold his own life highly, let alone anyone else's. The work of a shepherd was bitterly isolated. Months at a time he spent alone in the hills. Deprived of intercourse with other humans, he must have taken a long time to master the language and customs of the Irish. The approach of strangers may have held special terror. Like many others in such impossible circumstances Patrick developed a close relationship with God and a very active prayer life.

“Tending flocks was my daily work and when evening came, I would spend hours praying and asking God for guidance and direction. The love of God and the fear of Him surrounded me more and more—my faith grew and the spirit in me was aroused. “Patrick endured six years of this woeful isolation. On his last night as a slave he received a revelation from God. A mysterious voice said to him, “Your hungers are rewarded, you are going home.”

Patrick’s master’s farm was located inland, nowhere near the Sea. But Patrick set out, “Whither I knew not. “He walked some 200 miles through unknown territory. Miraculously Patrick was never stopped or followed. The young boy must have lived off the land traveling many miles until he reached the Southeaster Inlet where he saw a ship being loaded. The sailors were loading a cargo of Irish Hounds to be sold in Europe. Hounds were highly prized as hunting dogs.

Patrick approached the captain who eyed him suspiciously. He showed the captain that he had the money for His passage (where he got it, we’ll never know for sure though most agree he stole money from various folks while traveling across Ireland). The captain told him curtly, “You are wasting your time asking to sail with us.” This was Patrick’s greatest moment of danger. Recognized as a fugitive in a seaside settlement he could not expect to remain a free-man ... “I began to pray and before I finished my prayer one of the sailors shouted “Come quickly they are calling you, Come on board we will take you on trust.”

It took three days to cross to the continent and as they left their ship and journeyed inland, they found only devastation. This may well have been the year 407—the year that hundreds of thousands of hungry Germans had crossed the icy Rhine wreaking devastation through much of Gaul. The little party of exporters may have arrived in the wake of the German war parties. At any rate they discovered neither a single human nor a meal.

The captain taunted Patrick “How about it Christian? You say your God is great and all powerful, so why can’t you pray for us? We are starving to death.” ... Patrick responded “From the bottom of your heart turn trusting to the Lord my God ... For with Him nothing is impossible ...”

Suddenly the sound of a stampede attracted the attention of captain and crew and as they raised their eyes a herd of pigs were seen coming down the road in their direction. Not just food but the best food of all.

It took Patrick a few more years, but he at last made it home to England where he was welcomed as a son by his parent. They begged him not to leave them again. But Patrick was no longer a care-free teenager. He was hardened physically and psychologically by un-shareable experiences and hopelessly behind his peers in education. He had no desire to settle down. Try though he might he could not get the Irish out of his mind ... When he could no longer resist ... he left his family and followed the leadership of God to an island monastery located at present day Cannes, where he petitioned for a theological education in preparation for an ordination as a missionary ... At last with great difficulty he is ordained and became what was perhaps, the first missionary bishop. Patrick the escaped slave became Saint Patrick, Apostle to the Irish nation. His love for his adopted people shined through his writings and it was not just a generalized Christian benevolence but a love for individuals as they were. He worried constantly for the Irish, not just for their spiritual needs, but also for their physical welfare ...

In his last years he could look out over an Ireland transformed by his teaching. According to tradition he established bishops throughout the country--the former slave had succeeded beyond measure. Today, Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated throughout the Christian world.

We are now ready to continue our study of Second Timothy.

1. The book is a letter written by Paul to Timothy in c. A.D. 68. Paul wrote the letter during Nero's reign in what many call "Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> imprisonment." At the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> imprisonment Paul would be decapitated.

2. Though Paul suffered numerous "minor" imprisonments, most scholars agree there were two major ones. The book of Titus was written after Paul was released from his 1st imprisonment as he traveled north through Greece on his way to Dalmatia.

3. A travelogue of Paul's two major imprisonments:

3.1 Two years in Caesarea and two years in Rome. As best we can tell the first imprisonment in Caesarea began in c. 58 and ended when he was transported to Rome by boat in c. 60 A.D. He was imprisoned in Rome for the greater part of two years.

3.2 During his 1<sup>st</sup> imprisonment in Rome, Paul wrote the books of Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon.

3.3 Paul was released in c. 62. Under Rome's rules of criminal procedure accusers were given two years to present evidence of a "crime," however, no such accusations were presented therefore Paul was released.

3.4 After being released from Rome Paul traveled to Yugoslavia and then to Nicopolis in northern Greece. Nero had him again arrested and imprisoned in Rome where he would be martyred in c. 68.

4. While in Rome during his 2<sup>nd</sup> imprisonment Paul wrote first and second Timothy.

5. So far, I have analyzed 2Ti:1-6 and when time expired last week I was in the process of teaching 2Ti 1:7 by way of the *Doctrine of Fear*. Before we continue our categorical analysis of "fear," I want to give you an expanded translation of 2Ti 1-6.

### **Expanded Translation**

**2Ti 1:1 Paul, as one of the twelve apostles appointed by God the Holy Spirit, made possible by the risen Christ Jesus and the will of God, according to the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, 2Ti 1:2 to Timothy my spiritual and beloved child: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**2Ti 1:3 I thank God, whom I serve, with a clear conscience as did my fore-fathers, especially, when I remember you in my prayers.**

**1Ti 1:4 In fact as I remember your tears, I long night and day to work with you, so that I might again be filled with joy.**

**2Ti 1:5 I am often reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois, your mother Eunice and now I am sure resides in you.**

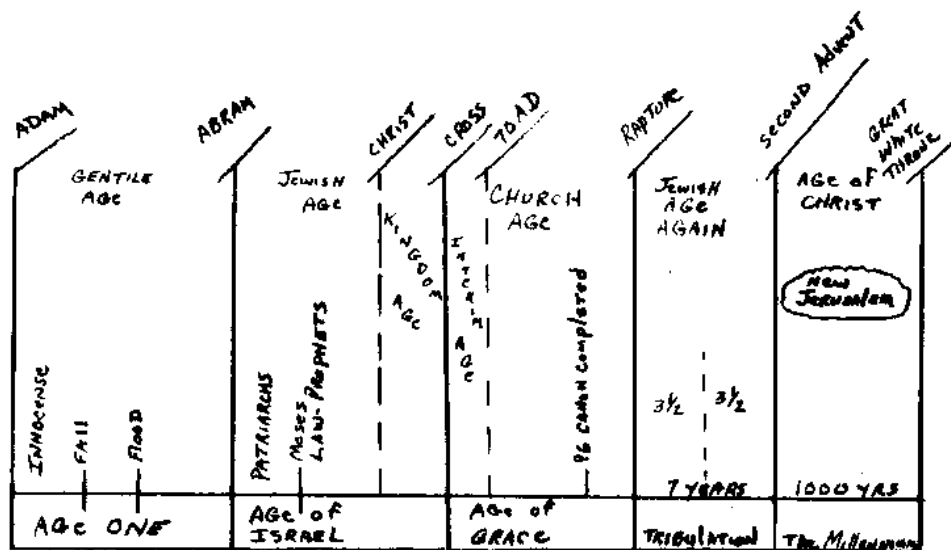
**2Ti 1:6 Accordingly, I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that lives in you and was recognized by the brethren when they ceremonially laid hands on you;**

6. I want to review some of that learned last week and then we will begin new material at point ten on page five. But first I want to give you an expanded translation of 1Ti 1:7

**2Ti 1:7 for God did not give us the spirit of cowardice but instead we received the spirit of power, love, self-control and a sound mind,**

Comments:

1. Paul recalls how and when he met Timothy and the recommendation he received about Timothy. Acts 16:1-2
2. Paul after meeting and testing Timothy decides he would make a productive member of his team.
3. From “hind-sight” we know Paul’s confidence was well placed. Timothy would even become a “delegated apostle” and Paul’s right-hand man.
4. Apostles once possessed significant authority and power. We have no direct comparison today. The gift of apostleship is no longer available. It was appropriate in the early part of the Church Age, in what I like to call the Interim Age, a sub-age of the Church Age.
- 4.1 The Interim Age is also called the Apostolic Age. The Interim Age was an age of transition from the Kingdom Age to the Church Age. It was during the Interim Age that the Canon was written. A chart will illustrate.



5. There was in the early part of the Church Age two kinds of apostles: there were the 12 original disciples minus Judas Iscariot plus Paul, called Apostles; and then there were other people who were Delegated Apostles. The Apostles were in most cases over one or more local churches.

6. The delegated apostles included men like Barnabas, Apollos, Silas, Timothy and James, the half-brother of Jesus.

7. The gifts of prophecy and apostleship were given to facilitate the growth of the church during the early part of the Church Age (A.D. c. 32 to 96). The gifts of evangelism and pastor-teacher were given to facilitate the growth of the church after A.D. 96.

Eph 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

8. The gift of apostleship was a temporary gift. This gift passed from the scene in A.D. 96 with the death of John and the completion of the Canon.

9. Timothy is warned against the power of fear. What the Bible teaches about fear is somewhat enigmatic. We are told to fear God and yet we are also told perfect love casts *out all fear*.

9.1 Fear can be a sin or an evil in our life. Fear, as a sin, can be handled easily, just name it to God and move on. Fear, which becomes evil, is another matter.

9.2 If we let the sin of fear stick around, it will become an evil, a terrible mental attitude sin which is both irrational and irresponsible; and thus, a terrible distraction, breeding failure and unhappiness.

9.3 That man should fear and respect God is an established principle. In one sense, however, as His prized possession, the regenerate man with doctrine should bask in the fact that God is our shield and our very great reward. In another sense God is not to be mocked or tempted. Gen 15:1

9.4 The carnal man, in contrast, is like an animal left to provide for himself in fear, protected from death, but left to live as an object of God's discipline. Lot feared to travel the way God directed. Gen 19:17-19

9.5 The closing chapter in the career of Lot is a pitiful period of fear and incest. Lot found himself evicted from his city of choice to live in fear of God and man. Zoar is a city located on the south shore of the Dead sea, its king had been one of the kings who had earlier captured Lot, requiring Abraham to rescue both him and his family.

9.6 Lot and his family failed miserably. Disaster, disgrace, despair, and death are written in their epitaph. On his tombstone an appropriate inscription might have been: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Gal 6:7).

9.7 The fear and the dread of appearing before a Holy God are eliminated-or ought to be-in the life of a believer. 1Jo 4:18; Rom 8:1, 33

9.8 The Scriptures speak of the following kinds of fear: A holy fear which amounts to awe or respect for the majesty and holiness of God.

9.8.1 Said another way: Godly fear is a deep and abiding respect because we know of His essence and attributes, but it has to be learned. Psa 34:11

9.8.2 David speaks of a fear which is clean and pure; one which creates joy in the heart and light to the eyes. Psa 19:8-9

9.8.3 The Bible, in several places, speaks of a reverential fear which is the basis or beginning of all true wisdom. Joy goes hand in hand with confidence on the road to happiness. Christians are to be joyful as we await the ecstatic and ultimate felicity and bliss at the end of our journey.

9.8.4 The writer of Pro 1:7 and Psa 111:10 both agree that fear and respect of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

9.8.5 Reverential fear provides respect for God's authorities; such respect will be seen by others as a good witness. Others may want what you have. We are to fear secular authority, for each has been established as God's agent to facilitate peace and prosperity within the nation. Rom 13:1-5

9.9 Such a fear is proper, but there is an insensate dread which should not be a part of our make-up, "worry or anxiety without cause." Heb 13:6; 1Pe 2:18

10. Discipline from the Lord is very often painful, but always perfect; it is done in love, God knows our frame and therefore provides that which is needed. Rom 8:26-28 compared with 1Th 5:18

Rom 8:26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

Rom 8:27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

1Th 5:18 In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

11. A believer's fear of discipline and reverential respect for God should be parlayed into a productive walk with God. A walk with God can only be accomplished by means of the consistent use of the two power options. Discipline must not be feared but approached as an "opportunity to learn."

Pro 3:12 For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.

Heb 12:6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

Heb 12:7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

Heb 12:8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

Rev 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

Rev 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

12. Fear is an essential element in the Christian life, be it reverence of God, which is the beginning of wisdom, or an advised concern.

1Pe 1:16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

1Pe 1:17 And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear.



13. As believers, we are told to fear the failure of moving to spiritual maturity.

Heb 4:1 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

Heb 4:2 For unto us was the good news of God's grace preached, as well as unto the exodus generation: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

Heb 4:3 Now we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said, "So I declared on oath in my anger, "They shall never enter my rest." And yet his work has been finished since the creation of the world.

Heb 4:4 For somewhere he has spoken about the seventh day in these words: "And on the seventh day God rested from all his work."

Heb 4:5 And again in the passage above he says, "They shall never enter my rest."

Heb 4:6 It still remains that some will enter that rest, and those who formerly had the gospel preached to them did not go in, because of their disobedience.

14. Israel didn't embrace the promises of God and neither did they fear Him. Israel received both national discipline and even now (though in the main unaware) they await a time of Jacob's trouble--the Tribulation.

15. Witnessing must be done with meekness and fear.

### **End Lesson**

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