

Did you know?

- St. Patrick wasn't Irish. He was English.
- At the age of 16, Patrick was captured by Irish pirates from his home in England and sold into slavery in Ireland.
- During his time of imprisonment, something very important happened in Patrick's life—he turned to God. In his own words, he explained, *"It was there that the Lord opened the understanding of my unbelieving heart, so that I should recall my sins and turn with all my heart to the Lord my God."*
- After six years of slavery, Patrick finally escaped from Ireland.

- Now that Patrick was released, he made an incredible decision. He decided to return to Ireland, the place of his imprisonment, as a missionary. He wanted to share with them the message that had changed his life.
- Patrick knew that the people in Ireland were actually in slavery—in slavery to sin. They were trapped by the deceptions of myths, with no hope or meaning in life. Patrick knew that only Christ could deliver them.
- Patrick suffered much, at times being put in chains and barely escaping with his life. Many followers of Christ were put to death during this time. Nevertheless, Patrick boldly continued to preach the truth about Jesus.

- Ireland responded in amazing ways to this good news. People listened to Patrick's preaching and understood how Christ had defeated death and paid for sins. In fact, all of Ireland was affected, and as a result the world remembers Patrick to this day. However, it was not Patrick to whom early Ireland responded—but Christ!

Patrick's Message

- We are all in slavery to sin. *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."* (Rom. 3:23, the Bible)
- The result of sin is guilt before God and separation from Him. *"The wages of sin is death."* (Rom. 6:23, the Bible)

*Born: A.D. 385
Died: March 17, A.D. 461*

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"The Steadfast Man" A biography of St. Patrick; Paul Gallico: Doubleday & Co. Garden City, New York.

"Confession" and "Letter to Coroticus"
These are the two extant documents written by Patrick himself.

Bibliography:

• God created us, loves us, and desires fellowship with us.

• Out of love, Jesus became a man in order to be our substitute by dying on the cross in our place. He was buried and rose from the dead just as the Old Testament had predicted.

• We can be assured now of eternal life—not by earning it, but by trusting in Jesus Christ and receiving the free gift of eternal life He wants to give.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16, the Bible)

"He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not life." (1 Jn. 5:12, the Bible)

Saint Patrick