

CHOOSING TRUTH OR HALF-TRUTH

1 JOHN 2:15-17

Pastor Bill Butler ✦ Canyon Bible Church ✦ March 17, 2019

Unless otherwise noted, scripture references are taken from the ESV.

PATRICIUS: THE TRUE STORY OF ST. PATRICK

“It was an act of defiance that changed the course of a nation. Patrick lit a fire in pagan 5th century Ireland, ushering Christianity into the country. Who was this man who became the patron saint of Ireland?”

The man known as St. Patrick was born into a Christian family in Britain. He had no serious interest in religion until he was abducted from his village around 400 AD and sent to Ireland on a slave ship. He was sold to a chieftain and tended his flocks for six years. In his memoir, “The Confession,” he recounted that through this time of prayer and suffering he came to know Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Patrick eventually escaped and returned to his family. His faith now strong, he studied for the ministry. In a dream he received the call to return to Ireland and minister to the very people who had held him captive. After experiencing difficulty praying about this call, he dreamed that the voice of God prayed for him. He then knew that he must go.

Patrick faced the challenge of convincing the warring, violent and suspicious Irish who worshipped multiple gods that there was only one God that really did love them.

Part of their pagan worship was the lighting of a symbolic fire at the change of seasons. His showdown with them came on his first Easter there when he lit a forbidden fire to demonstrate that the true light was Christ rather than the fire of their pagan worship.

He lay the groundwork for Christianity as he preached the Gospel, baptized converts and in 432 AD built the first Christian church in Ireland on the site of present-day St. Patrick’s Memorial Church in Sal. His ministry lasted 29 years. Over 120,000 Irishmen were baptized and over 300 churches were planted.

"The Breastplate" by Patrick:

“Christ be 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 inquired, Christ in danger, Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.”

(Citation: **Patricius: The True Story of St. Patrick** | CBN.com **David Kithcart**
<http://fw.to/8IXCWNK>)

WEEK OF MARCH 18-24, 2019:

Sunday - WORSHIP SERVICE, 10:00 am

FELLOWSHIP MEAL following the service

COMING UP IN APRIL:

19th – Good Friday

21st – Resurrection Sunday

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Ladies, please return your surveys to Joy. Thanks!



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