



Would You Be Like Saint Patrick?

and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness. None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth...Isa 59:3-4a

The Scriptures state that our very hands are coated with the sins we commit daily. Our tongue is laden with its daily guilt. We as a people do not call for truth or plead for justice. For if we called for justice, our own guilt in the matter would also be established. Do you want to come clean? Do you want to be free from guilt?

He himself said through the prophet: 'Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.'

Notice that the purpose or aim in God delivering someone is that they may glorify Him! Patrick personally acknowledged his sinfulness and need of God to deliver him from sin and make his life new (born again).

A second area in which one should emulate Patrick is his example of telling others what God had done for him.

...to spread God's name everywhere with confidence and without fear...

Many in this world want to emulate others. To be like someone else, or to follow their example can be a great goal in one's life.

If you would not be forgotten as soon as you are dead, either write things worth reading or do things worth writing-Ben Franklin

The Apostle Paul stated, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." Though following the example of some might lead to greatness in this world, ultimately only following one who follows Christ will lead to eternal glory.

During the life of Saint Patrick, a group of soldiers attacked and killed his new converts whom he was instructing. In his grief over the incident he exclaimed his inability to decide who was more worthy of his weeping. Eventually he states, " 'he who sins is a slave already' and is to be called 'son of the devil.' " If we are to be like Saint Patrick and ultimately, like Christ, we must grieve over those who are not walking uprightly. This is true even if the person, who is not walking uprightly, is OURSELVES!!!

...that through me many people would be reborn in God...

...And again: 'I have set you to be a light for the Gentiles that you may bring salvation to the uttermost ends of the earth.'

...And again: 'It is right to reveal and publish abroad the works of God.'

...I cannot keep silent, nor would it be proper, so many favours and graces has the Lord deigned to bestow on me...

Why are you not willing to tell others? Could it be because this change has not happened in your life? One who has accepted Christ as their Saviour is willing to serve Him in any manner He chooses, including telling others about His great salvation.

...Hence, therefore, I say boldly that my conscience is clear now and hereafter...

Thirdly, Patrick upon becoming a Christian spent the rest of his life struggling against sin. He spoke openly of Satanic opposition as he served God, yet he remained faithful!

...for he is strong who strives daily to turn me away from the faith and true

Patrick became worthy of emulating because he desired to be Christ-like and committed himself to agreeing with God and His Word.

Understand that Patrick did not start out his life being a friend of God, but rather had to submit to truth as it was revealed. "And there [in Ireland] the Lord opened my mind to an awareness of my unbelief, in order that...I might remember my transgressions and turn with all my heart to the Lord my God..."

Patrick was NOT born knowing God on a personal basis.

'A lying mouth deals death to the soul.' Patrick quotes, "and likewise the Lord says in the Gospel: 'On the day of judgment men shall render account for every idle word they utter.'"

Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find? Proverbs 20:6.

A faithful man is one who will recognize his lack of goodness before a thrice-holy God. Have you ever come to acknowledge who you really are before this holy God?

For your hands are defiled with blood,

holiness to which I aspire until the end of my life for Christ my Lord, but the hostile flesh is always dragging one down to death, that is, to unlawful attractions. Will you fight those unlawful attractions?

Follow Patrick's examples.

1) If you have never been born again, become a new creature today.

Acts 20:17-21, Isaiah 55:6-9, John 3:1-21, I Peter 1:18-19, II Cor 5:17 and Isaiah 53m

2) If you are born again, tell others of the change in your life. Acts 20:21

3) If you are a Christian, struggle against sin daily. Gal 2:20

Patrick testified of the Irish, '...until now, cherished idols and unclean things, they are lately become a people of the Lord, and are called children of God...' How about you, friend?

For questions or more information please contact:

Bro. Bryan Hatfield
Beth HaMidrash Baptist Church
POB 342493
Milwaukee, WI 53234-2493
414-643-8765