

Prophecies of HOPE

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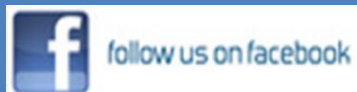
Volume 3, Number 1

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Would you like to have a FREE Bible study? Please call, mail or email Prophecies of Hope, and ask for the free Bible study guides. We will send them at no cost to you!



Prophecies of Hope, is an independent ministry feeling a responsibility to share Bible truth through the love of God and His only begotten Son Jesus Christ. Although not ecumenical in nature, we believe God has a remnant people in every denomination that want to serve Him, keep His Commandments, and have the faith of His Son Jesus. (Revelation 14:12)

Our focus is not on membership in any earthly organization, but on spreading Biblical truth found only in the Word of God. This is the only basis for every subject in the Prophecies of Hope seminars. Please feel free to contact us in regards to supporting this endeavor or with any questions you may have.

Scripture Reading

John 5:26

“For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself.”

Prophecies of Hope presents, Bible Answers!



Listen to Mark and Rick broadcast a radio program each week called, “Prophecies of Hope, Bible Answers”.

Join them as they study and discuss a different Bible topic every Thursday at 10:00PM Eastern time 7:00PM Pacific at, www.newvisionsradio.com

Who Was Saint Patrick?

Saint Patrick's Day is a holiday which many in the Western world recognize and celebrate. Over the years Saint Patrick's Day has taken on a very festive atmosphere being celebrated in mid-March. On this day many people wear green in some form. Some will dye their hair green or paint their teeth green. Others paint temporary tattoos of leprechauns or three leaf-clovers called shamrocks on themselves. Many bars and pubs serve green beer and restaurants serve green mashed potatoes, others serve corned beef and cabbage.

Do any of those things really have anything to do with Patrick himself? Who was this man whom we call Saint Patrick?

Patrick's given name was actually Maewyn Succat (or Sucat). Contrary to popular belief, history shows that Patrick was Scottish, not Irish. He took the name Patrick most likely because of the area he was from in Scotland. According to the book, *The Ancient British and Irish Churches*, page 127 the following is what Patrick himself said of his background;

"I, Patrick...had Calpornius for my father, a deacon, a son of the late Potitus, the presbyter, who dwelt in the village of Banavan...I was captured. I was almost sixteen years of age...and taken to Ireland in captivity with many thousand men."

On Page 70, this same reference points out that while in slavery, Patrick gave his heart to God and after six years of servitude he escaped returning to his home in Scotland. But he could not forget the spiritual need of the poor heathen which took him captive. So after ten years he returned to Ireland as a missionary of the Celtic church. The writings of Patrick himself are very minimal. The things which are now taught about Patrick didn't surface until about 500 years after his death. It was the Catholic priest Jocelyn who wrote most extensively about Patrick around the year 1130 A.D. or C.E. (*More accurately C.E. which is the "Common Era"*)

Jocelyn ignored most of what was known about Patrick and inserted a Catholic background into

Patrick's story. However, the truth is that Patrick in no way followed the Roman Catholic doctrine. Patrick never wrote about a connection to Rome or to the popes. He never stated that his authority came from the Roman Catholic system. So if Patrick wasn't Roman Catholic, what did he teach and believe?



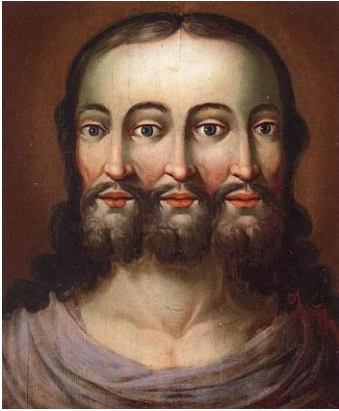
According to A.C. Flick, in the book *The Rise of the Medieval Church*, Patrick rejected the merging of church and state which, is a teaching of Catholicism. He believed and taught the same as Jesus did in John 18:36 which is the truth that God's Kingdom is not of this world. The Celtic Church had local ecclesiastical councils and kept Saturday the Biblical Sabbath, as a day of rest. In this matter of a Saturday (Sabbath) rest, Dr. James C. Moffatt wrote the following;

"They [the Celtic churches] obeyed the fourth commandment [the Sabbath commandment] literally upon the seventh day of the week" (*The Church in Scotland*, page 140).

The books, *The Celtic Church in Britain* by Leslie Hardinge, and *Truth Triumphant* by B.G. Wilkinson, show that Patrick rejected the teaching of an immortal soul, or in other words, the doctrine of going to heaven or hell at the moment we die.

Contrary to what most people have been told, Patrick rejected the doctrine of the trinity which is a doctrine created by ancient Babylon and was brought into Christianity through the council of Nicaea (in 325 A.D.) and by the Roman Catholic Church. In fact, *The Handbook for Today's Catholic*, states the following;

“The mystery of the Trinity is the central doctrine of the Catholic faith. Upon it are based all the other teachings of the Church”



For more information on the history and origins of the trinity see the book, *The Two Babylons*, by Alexander Hislop Pages 12-90)

Patrick followed the food laws of Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14 about eating only meats which are clean before the LORD. He refused to venerate or worship the so-called "saints" and the worship of Mary. Opposing what the Catholic Church teaches, Patrick believed that only Jesus Christ is our mediator. (See 1 Timothy 2:5)

In his book, *Truth Triumphant*, B.G Wilkinson also shares that it was in A.D. 596 that Pope Gregory sent a group of monks to England to try and bring the Celtic Church under the authority of Rome. But, the Celts refused to acknowledge Gregory's authority and rejected all of the teachings of the Roman Church which were not Biblical.

In Ireland the monks found that the Celtic Church permitted their priests to marry. However, Catholics do not. The Celts also practiced baptism by full immersion in water, yet Catholics sprinkle. The Celtic Church rejected the doctrine of papal infallibility and veneration. They rejected the teaching of transubstantiation. Transubstantiation is a doctrine which teaches that the bread and the wine used in communion, known by Catholics as the Eucharist, literally changes into the body and blood of Christ. The Celtic Church rejected the teaching of the confessional, the Mass, relic worship, image adoration and the primacy of Peter.

According to Irish folklore, Patrick was a Catholic monk who used the shamrock to explain the doctrine of the trinity to the Irish people and along the

way he drove all the snakes from the Emerald Isle. He became so renowned that the Catholic Church made him a saint. In actuality, the Catholic Church "rewrote" history, robbed him of his true identity and then they labelled him a Catholic saint. This is dishonest to say the least.

What does the Bible Say?

Well this brings us to the question, is Saint Patrick's Day in the Bible? The answer is no! Saint Patrick's Day is not a Biblical holiday nor is it a Holy Day. And, as it is currently celebrated, St. Patrick's Day actually has nothing to do with the historical man Patrick. In fact, it is almost entirely based upon error. Many holidays which we consider to be of Christian origin are a mixture of truth and error. Because of this, most people have no idea as to the history or purpose of the days they are honoring and celebrating.

Friends, We at Prophecies of Hope want to encourage you to read what God says in the Bible so you can know for yourself which day or days He made Holy. In Hosea 4:6 God says;

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.”

We should want to know the truths that our Heavenly Father has given to us in His word the Bible, seeking for these things as we would for hidden treasure! (See Proverbs 2:4) In the Gospel of John 4:23-24 Jesus said;

“But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth”
(Authorized King James Version)

If we are to worship God in spirit and in truth, we must carefully examine the things we believe and have been taught. We should be willing to rid ourselves of any form of worship which may displease our Heavenly Father.

Mark Martin, POH.

Questions from the POH

Mailbox

Does the Bible condemn the use of tobacco?



While the Bible does not come out and directly say that using tobacco is wrong, we can find several Biblical reasons why the use of tobacco is displeasing to God. Consider just a few points.

First of all, the use of tobacco in the form of smoking, chewing or dipping is unhealthy and defiles the body. Notice what the Apostle Paul said regarding how God expects us to care for our bodies.

“Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.” (1 Corinthians 3:16-17. NKJV)

This verse makes it clear that God will destroy those who purposefully harm themselves. This would apply not only to tobacco use, but to the abuse of any substance which is harmful to our bodies. In fact, this principle also applies to what we eat and drink and how much we eat and drink.

Secondly, nicotine is an addictive substance that enslaves people. Romans 6:16 says;

“Surely you know that you become the slaves of whatever you give yourselves to. Anything or anyone you follow will be your master. You can follow sin, or you can obey God. Following sin brings spiritual death, but obeying God makes you right with him.” (Easy to read Version)

Let’s compare this verse to what Jesus said in Matthew 4:10;

“You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.” (NKJV)

It seems clear that if we become addicted or enslaved to any substance whether tobacco, food, alcohol or other, we are allowing these things to become our “master” so-to-speak. The above verses are giving strong counsel about these things.

The third point is the fact that the tobacco habit is unclean. In 2Corinthians 6:11-18 God’s people are called to be Holy. In the context of these verses we are told in verse 17;

“Come out from among them, and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.” (NKJV)

The fourth and final point is that it has been proven that smoking tobacco shortens lives. Some doctors say that smoking can shorten your life span by as much as 30%! This breaks God’s Commandment against killing. Exodus 20:13 clearly says, ***“Thou shalt not kill.”*** (KJV)



Many people who use tobacco products truly want to quit. However, because of the addictive substances in tobacco, quitting can seem overwhelming and perhaps even seem impossible. God is very interested in every aspect of your life and He wants what is best for you! If you use tobacco in any form and you truly want to quit, don’t hesitate to ask our Heavenly Father for help in the name of Jesus.

In Philippians 4:13 the Apostle Paul said; *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”* And in Mark 10:27 Jesus said, *“...With God all things are possible.”*



The power of prayer should never be underestimated! Don't hesitate to pray and ask for God's help. Have others pray with you and for you in this regard. Keep in mind that we at Prophecies of Hope meet each week and have intercessory prayer for anyone who asks to be on our prayer list. If you or someone you know has a need for prayer in this regard or any other, please contact us and we will gladly pray for you as well.

Lastly, if you or someone you know is a smoker and wants to quit, we will send you literature completely free of charge which may help you in this regard.

Mark Martin, POH.

Is there a Bible question you would like to have answered but have hesitated to ask? Please feel free to mail or email your Bible questions to;

**Prophecies of Hope!
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Staunton, VA. 24402**

office@prophecyhope.com



Join the Prophecies of Hope team for Sabbath School & Worship Service!

**We meet Saturday (Sabbath)
mornings at the Waynesboro
Mennonite Church
in classroom #2**

**Address:
1801 Monroe St,
Waynesboro, VA 22980**

**Sabbath School – 9:30 AM
Worship Service – 11:00 AM**

**You can also join us
live via the Internet!**

**For more information call
540-296-HOPE**



Longing For Rest

Is it just me, or is life really demanding in the world we live in right now? It seems like no matter where I turn, there is some new conflict occurring within my small little realm of the world. Whether at work or church, among relatives or friends, there seems to be a lot of disagreements, creating hard feelings and disrupted relationships. So many people I know that are struggling with illness, cancer, loss of loved ones. People are experiencing financial difficulties, loss of jobs, and loss of relationships. And let's not forget the world at large, with such cruelty abounding, with people being beheaded, burned alive, senseless murder of hundreds if not thousands of people. There seems to be constant political conflict, each party trying to gain some sort of advantage over the other, being more concerned about being in control than trying to do something constructed for our nation. One person explained it to me this way the other day;

“There is just so much noise, I can't take it anymore. I just want get away from all the drama and conflict, and go somewhere where I can experience quiet, and rest.”



Do you ever feel that way? Wanting to get away from it all and just rest? Do you know that God has a place of rest? Paul in Hebrews 4:4 says;

“For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.”

This is God, resting on the Sabbath to celebrate the work that He had finished in creating the world. David says in Psalms 11:10;

“And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, who shall stand as an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his place of rest shall be glorious.”

Throughout the Old Testament God promised Israel that they would enter into His rest. 1Kings 8:56 says;

“Blessed be the LORD, that has given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there has not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant.”

But this promise was conditional: Notice, 1Kings 8:57-58;

“The LORD our God be with us, as he was with our fathers: let him not leave us, nor forsake us. That he may incline our hearts unto him, to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and his statutes, and his judgments, which he commanded our fathers.”

Unfortunately, much of Hebrews chapter 3 tells the story of God's rejection of Israel, and of Israel not being allowed to enter into His rest. Why? Paul in Hebrews tells us;

“Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, Today if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness, when your fathers tempted Me, proved Me, and saw My works forty years. Therefore I was grieved with that generation and said, They always err in their heart, and they have not known My ways. So I swore in My wrath, They shall not enter into My rest.” Take heed, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called today, lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.” (Hebrews 3:7-13 MKJV)

It seems that to receive God's rest, we must have faith In God that leads to obeying his Commandments. Is it no wonder that there is no rest in most of the world today!

Ah, but there is that one word that we don't like to hear, it's called obedience. Now you say, "Come on Ed, get real, you know how hard I have tried to obey God, but I always end up failing. How can I ever come to the point that I can be obedient to God?" You see that is the beauty of God's love for us, He has provided a way.

Please notice Romans 5:6-10. This is one of my favorite portions of scripture.

"For we yet being without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly." (Romans 5:6)

Being without strength refers to our lack of strength to obey God and follow His Commandments because of our sinful nature.

Romans 5:7, 8; ***"For one will with difficulty die for a righteous one, yet perhaps one would even dare to die for a good one. But God commends His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us."***

Do you see what the Bible is saying here? That God, knowing of our lack of strength to obey his Commandments because of sin, loved us so much that He sent His only begotten Son, Jesus, to take the punishment for your and my sins, to bear all the guilt, and embarrassment, and shame that we should have endured instead, and die in our place.

Have you ever taken the time to look to see what is inside your heart? Just you and God. Looking at all those not so good thoughts and feelings, and those things that you would do if you knew that you wouldn't get caught doing them. The embarrassment and shame you would feel if anyone ever found out about what is really inside your heart. You see, God already knows all about what is in our hearts, and yet still loved us so much that He sent Jesus to die in our place.

But, did you notice what it doesn't say? It doesn't say that when you are able to obey 8 of the 10 Commandments, or 2 of the 10, or even 1 of the 10 that Jesus' blood would cover your sins. You see, Jesus didn't come to save us when we were at our best, but when we were at our worst, when we were still sinners. And best of all it is a free gift,

which only requires that we accept it through faith. It is a gift that we cannot earn, pay back, or reimburse to God. It is simply a free gift for all those who will accept it.

But you know what? This is just the beginning. It even gets better in the next few verses.

Romans 5:9-10; ***"Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life."***

I understand what it means to be saved by His death, but how are we saved by His life? Let's look at what Paul says in Galatians 2:20: ***"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."***

Let's look further into what Paul says: ***"For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness."*** (Romans 8:6-10 KJV)

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the

kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

(Galatians 5:16-25, KJV)

When Christ died for us, he covered our sins with his blood and bore our punishment in place of us. When we invite Christ to live in our hearts, He changes us by His presence. It is the Spirit of Christ, living and working in us, that produces the fruit of the Spirit, against which there is no law. Thus we are saved by Christ's righteousness working in us, through faith, which brings about obedience to God's law.

Look at what else Paul says;

“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

(Philippians 1:6 KJV)

“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”

(Philippians 2:13 KJV)

This is what Jesus offers us.

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

(Matthew 11:28-30 KJV)

Are you tired of all the “noise” in your life? Invite Jesus into your life. Accept His gift of salvation, offered freely to everyone. Daily invite Him into your heart, to change you, and to produce the fruit of His Spirit through you. And you will find rest for your souls!

Ed Short, POH.



Prophecies of Hope Update

The Prophecies of Hope team has been working hard to keep our website current. All of the lectures from each Bible prophecy series, and all of our past radio broadcasts can be found on our website, www.prophecyhope.com. A new radio program is added each week as Mark and Rick discuss a new topic revealing Bible truth right from the word of God!

If you would like DVD copies of any of our lectures, or CD copies of any of our radio programs from the past, you may request a free copy by emailing Cory Dale. You can reach Cory at, cory@prophecyhope.com. We will send them to you free of charge.

In addition to our seminar lectures and radio broadcasts, we will also be adding new sermons throughout the upcoming months, so please be sure to visit our website on a regular basis!

If you have any questions or comments regarding this ministry please feel free to contact our office.

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Monday-Thursday 8:00AM-5:00PM

Friday 8:00AM – Noon

