

**GOING GREEN**  
***A St. Patrick's Day Bible Study***

A SECULAR CELEBRATION OF A SPIRITUAL SAINT

- |                  |                                   |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| -- Wearing Green | -- Luck O' the Irish              |
| -- Shamrocks     | -- Corn Beef & Cabbage            |
| -- Leprechauns   | -- Drinking (1 day off from Lent) |

Tonight, listen as Christ speaks to us through 2 St. Patrick's Day traditions!

**The Story of St. Patrick**

Lessons Learned:

(1) God has a PLAN when BAD THINGS HAPPEN!

- Patrick's enslavement: how was it good?
  
- What OT character does Patrick resemble?
  - Genesis 50:20
  
- With hindsight, we can clearly see how God was at work in both lives. What does this mean for our predicaments? How should this understanding affect our prayers?
  - > Matt.26:39,42
  
- Key Insight: Often, circumstances that impact us are BIGGER THAN US!
  - > See Esther 4:14
  
- Key Lesson in the Genesis and Esther narratives (and Patrick legend): DIVINE PROVIDENCE

(2) We must immerse ourselves in our TARGET CULTURE! *(Eating black pudding)*

- How did Patrick practice "assimilation?"
  - \* bonfires at Easter
  - \* the Celtic cross
  
- 1 Cor. 9:19-23. What is the point Paul is making?
  
- How far should we go? (ex: "pub evangelism," "handing out smokes and Bibles")
  - \* Know the difference between CULTURAL and SPIRITUAL laws.
  - \* Don't SIN to reach 'em.
  - \* Don't compromise your HOLINESS – stay SEPARATE and, thereby, ATTRACTIVE.

## The Luck of the Irish

In Irish folklore, the leprechaun had the ability to bestow luck on someone. Ironically, the Irish have not been very “lucky,” by luck’s definition. Consider how much the idea of luck is ingrained into our vocabulary:

- |              |                |              |                   |                   |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| * Tough Luck | * Best of Luck | * Hard Luck  | * Good Luck       | * Out of Luck     |
| * Pure Luck  | * Blind Luck   | * Plain Luck | * Push One’s Luck | * Beginner’s Luck |
| * Lady Luck  | * Wish Me Luck | * Lucky      | * Worse Luck      | * Luck Up         |
| * Bad Luck   | * Luck into it | * Lucky Dog  |                   |                   |

“Luck” – 1. The chance happening of fortunate or adverse events. 2. Good fortune or prosperity; success ... to gain success or something desirable by chance: “I lucked out in finding that rare book.”

There are two questions we must ask: (1) Is there really such a thing as “luck?”  
(2) What does the Bible say about “luck?”  
(Answering #2 will give us the answer to #1)

→ The main question is, do things happen by chance?  
\* If they do, then one can speak of someone being lucky or unlucky.  
\* If they do not, then it is inappropriate to use those terms.

→ Scriptures ‘in favor’ of luck???

- \* Ecclesiastes 9:11-12
- \* 2Chronicles 18:33 (2 Chron. 18:18-19)
- \* Ruth 2:3 (Ruth 4:14)

*Much of what Ecclesiastes shares is from the perspective of a person who looks at life on earth without God, or life “under the sun.” From such a perspective—leaving God out of the picture—there seems to be good luck and bad luck.*

→ Scriptures which deny luck

- \* Proverbs 16:33

→ God’s sovereignty involves two aspects.  
(1) God’s active will or sovereignty would involve something He causes to happen  
(2) God’s passive will involves Him allowing, rather than causing, something to happen

*Because we do not have the curtains drawn back to see what is taking place in heaven, we cannot always determine whether God’s active or passive will is involved in the events of our lives, but we do know that all things that take place are under the umbrella of His will, whether active or passive, and therefore nothing is a matter of mere chance. When a person rolls the dice to play a board game, God may sometimes cause the dice to land a certain way, but more often than not in such inconsequential matters, He may allow the dice to land as his laws of nature would determine without any active involvement. But even when He is not actively involved, how the dice land are still under His sovereignty.*