Daily Devotional, March 17, 2021

'Saint Patrick's Day', (Acts 1:8)

"*But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*" (Acts 1:8, NKJV)

The way that folks celebrate this day today, one would think that Saint Patrick was a heathen lush from the lush country of Ireland. That could not be further from the truth. Saint Patrick was born in the late fourth century, and according to tradition, he died on March 17th, on or about the year 461 A.D.. Having lived many of his younger years as a slave and a shepherd, he became a missionary throughout Ireland. Saint Patrick is credited with the conversion of many to Christianity. According to legend, he used the shamrock to explain the concept of the Triune God to the common people. Whatever his theology may have been, Saint Patrick sure did have religious fervor for Christ.

As Bible-believing Christians, we have great cause, and even a command, to imitate this kind of missionary zeal. Many, even those who follow after the spirit of this age in their celebration of this day, are in dire need of the salvation of soul which is found only in Jesus Christ. Christian friend, you have the answer! You know the message! And you are called to be a missionary right where you are. People all around you are in darkness—darkness of fear, darkness of depression, darkness of soul. Go today in the power of the Holy Spirit and be a witness to your countrymen, your friends, and your family. The Son of God would have gone to "the end of the earth" for you. Saint Patrick went to Northern Ireland. You may not be traveling far, but wherever you go, "preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).