

# Letter to the Soldiers of Coroticus Worksheet

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The Letter to the Soldiers of Coroticus is Saint Patrick's protest against the slaughter and enslaving of Irish Christians by Christian Welshmen that were raiding Ireland. Coroticus was a west coast king that invaded the northern Ireland coast enslaving many Christians. Coroticus (a common Welsh name) is also known as Ceredig, Cerdic, Caradock, and Coroticus

## — Vocabulary

Verbally, define the following terms in 1-2 words. Try to comprehend the vocabulary term by seeing how Patrick used it in a sentence.

barbarians, exile, heathen, apostate, presbyter, lament, Parricide, fratricide, predestinated, tyranny, sublime, alms, reparation, penance, unquenchable, tedious, Avarice, covet, compelled, kinsfolk, decurion, solicitude, ransom, brothel, laments, grossly, impudently, abominable, prevailed, forsaken, sorcerers, perjurers, transgressor, temporal, dispersed, constancy, Amen, testify, suppressed, heinous

Solidi = gold coin

## — Geography

- 1) Locate the following places on a map, in an atlas, and on a globe.
- 2) Compare and contrast the weather from these areas with your own weather for one week.

Ireland, Gaul

## — Personages

Quickly tell who each of the following individuals are — some you may never have heard of before reading St. Patrick's Confessions. Tell what you have gleaned from Patrick's writings.

Patrick, Coroticus, Romans, Scots, Picts, Eve, Franks, Irish, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob

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### **— Comprehension Questions**

Verbally discuss the following questions.

#### 1) Questions for ¶1-¶5

- How does Patrick describe himself (¶1)?
- Where does Patrick live? Why?
- Who wrote this letter (¶2)?
- Who was the letter written to?
- How does Patrick describe the Romans, Scots and Picts?
- What happened after new converts were baptized (¶3)?
- Why did Patrick send a presbyter?
- What happened?
- Why is Patrick concerned about whom to lament (¶4)?
- Who does Patrick declare to be enemies of himself, Christ and God?

#### 2) Questions for ¶6-¶10

- What does Patrick do (¶6)?
- How does Patrick describe Coroticus?
- What does Patrick tell fellow Christians to do (¶7)?
- Who does Patrick want to make reparation and to whom?
- True/False: Patrick says the Most High disapproves of the gifts of the wicked (¶8)?
- According to Patrick, what will happen to the wicked?
- What is Patrick's stance with respect to avarice (¶9)?
- Did Patrick voluntarily go to Ireland (¶10)?
- Who was Patrick initially enslaved with?
- Why did Patrick sell his noble rank?

#### 3) Questions for ¶11-¶15

- What is Patrick communicating in ¶11? Why?
- What has God given Patrick (¶12)?
- True/False: Patrick holds that he is loved. (¶13)
- What is happening to Christians around Patrick?
- Who is responsible?
- To whom does Coroticus give Christians?
- Why should Christians not enjoy a meal with the ungodly (¶14)?
- What do the Roman Christians in Gaul send to the Franks (¶15)? Why?

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### 4) Questions for ¶16-¶22

True/False: Patrick holds you should grieve and weep with Christians that are sad.  
(¶16)

For whom does the Church mourn? Why?

Why is Patrick sad and grieved (¶17)? Why?

Why does Patrick rejoice (¶18)?

Who will reign with the apostles, and prophets, and martyrs (¶19)?

How does Patrick describe Coroticus (¶20)?

How does Coroticus treat baptized women?

Who does Patrick speak for (¶21)?

What language does he use?

Who does Patrick want to carry his letter (¶22)? Why?

Why does Patrick want his letter read in the presence of Coroticus?

What does Patrick earnestly desire?

### 5) General Questions

What character traits does Saint Patrick display in this letter?

Do you think Saint Patrick clearly communicated his concern about the enslaved and murdered Christians?

What emotions do you think Saint Patrick was experiencing?