



Topic:

The Point of No Return—You Cannot Stop Now!

Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault. But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firm in it. Don't drift away from when you heard the Good News. The Good News has been preached all over the world, and I, Paul, have been appointed as God's servant to proclaim it.

~Colossians 1:22-23 (NLT)~

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INTRODUCTION

The phrase *“the point of no return”* takes on several meanings in our society or world today. This is because the point of no return can be varied in definition and interpretation all of which originate within the one who is at that point.

From a foundational stand, the point of no return usually means the point beyond which someone, or some group of people, must continue on their current course of action. This could be either because turning back is physically impossible, or because to do so would be prohibitively expensive or dangerous. The point of no return is also used when the distance or effort required to get back to a previous point would be greater than the remainder of the journey or task as yet undertaken or because turning back would involve additional measure not encountered on the initial trip.

Example: You are headed on a road trip that is 250 miles from your starting point (home). You have gassed up the car with a full tank. Let's say your gas tank yields 315 miles on a full tank. Now, you have set out on your trip taking the family along for the ride. You are 195 miles into the trip when someone mentions you left your wallet sitting on the table just inside the front door. Here you are with no money, no credit cards and no identification. You realize heading back home would be impossible or would require you to endure things not experienced on your initial journey. In this case, the best possible solution would be to continue the journey and work out the forgotten wallet after you arrive at your destination.

In our text, Colossians 1:22-23, the apostle tells the church at Colossae that those who are in Christ have been reconciled unto Christ through Christ's death on the cross. Because of the sacrifice of Christ, they have been brought into Christ's presence and Paul tells them that they stand before the Lord holy and blameless. In other words, we stand before God forgiven for the sin we committed through the shed blood of Christ. But the apostle encourages of the importance of them continuing to believe the truth and to stand firm in it. He warns them not to drift away from the assurance they received when they heard and received the good news of salvation. It is of an urgent importance that we, as Christians; Believers in Christ, whose lives have been changed, continue to stand in the faith. We cannot make any provision for returning to the

life we once lived prior to the birth of our new life in Christ. But how do we continue in a world that's full of influence and situation attempting to lure us back to our former life?

In this lesson, we will address five (5) necessities we must embrace in order to continue; in order to reach **The Point of No Return**.

OUR STUDY

There is a point in the life of every Christian wherein we have reached the point in our salvation walk with the Lord that turning back is not an option. Interestingly this point is reached the moment we embrace Jesus as our Lord and Savior though some might argue this as not the case. However, when we consider what it took to secure our salvation; the bloodshed and death of Jesus, the separation from the Father He experienced when He became the sins of you and I, we would surely say too much has been given for us to return to where we came from. The sacrifice to secure our deliverance and freedom from sin was far too great.

So, why is the point of no return critical for us as Christians to strive toward? See, this is the point where we reach an unshakable faith in our Lord. Our faith has been cultivated and grown into a faith that believes beyond all doubt. We now walk in the truth that we are in an impenetrable relationship with our God. We have come to the place where we value our relationship with our Savior above every other relationship we may be in. We are assured that we are resting in God's everlasting love where nothing and no one can wedge a separation.

Romans 8:35-39 (NKJV)

- ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
- ³⁶ As it is written: For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.
- ³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.
- ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,
- ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

When we reach the point of no return we are not only resting in the everlasting love of God, we also have a resting trust in the Lord because we know of a surety that our hope is the Lord. We are rooted and grounded in a fruit bearing life.

Jeremiah 17:7-8 (NKJV)

- ⁷ But Blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence.
- ⁸ They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit.

Now that we understand the glory of reaching the point of no return, how do we bring this into reality in our life? What must we do to reach **The Point of No Return**?

We must abide in Christ.

John 15:4-5 (NTL)

⁴ Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.

⁵ “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.

As Jesus sat with His disciples eating, what would be His last meal with them before the crucifixion, He began to speak about the importance for the disciples to abide and remain in Him. Repeating himself several times, and explaining that it was through, and only through, remaining in Him that they would bear the fruit of the Spirit in their life.

Abiding in Christ is a mark of true salvation. If a person’s relationship to Christ is genuine, he remains. The Bible instructs us in 1 John 2:24-25, to let that abide in us which we heard from the beginning. If what we heard from the beginning abides in us, we also will abide in the Son and in the Father. The message we heard from the beginning was that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. In hearing this we were placed on the path of no return headed toward the promise of God. The Bible goes on to say that in 1 John 2:25 “This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life”. Abiding or remaining in Christ is what secures our eternal rest with Christ.

We must maintain our good works.

Galatians 6:9-10 (NLT)

⁹ So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up.

¹⁰ Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.

Sometimes doing the right thing does not feel good, but it works out for our good. In this scripture Paul warns against becoming weary in well-doing and enforces his warning with a very powerful motive. Our present “business” as believers is to “do good”. Nowhere in the Bible are we promised that the Christian life is going to be easy. In fact, often the opposite is true. Difficulties will come and trials will cross our paths and often, we will be tempted to quit on God and either throw in the towel or slow down our momentum. We must remain faithful in doing what is good and pleasing in God’s sight.

We must stay in the race.

Hebrews 12:1-2 (NKJV)

¹ Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Believers are challenged to run with endurance the race of faith. No one likes to see a runner drop out of a race. The writer of Hebrews gives strong words of encouragement to endure as runners in the race. In 1 Corinthians, the apostle Paul used the metaphor of running the race of life.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (NLT)

- ²⁴Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win!
²⁵All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize.
²⁶So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing.
²⁷I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified.

From these scriptures we see various aspects must be considered regarding the race “set before us” – the need for endurance; the focus of our vision; keeping the rules; self-discipline; and the desire and determination to win. The need for endurance in the Christian life is crucial. We must be aware that a continual warfare is taking place in the heavenlies. Being a soldier is not enough to win the war. We must actively fight a good fight if we are to reach the point of no return and lay hold of eternal life. If we lack in any of these areas, we will become vulnerable to defeat and failure.

We must gird up the loins of our mind.

1 Peter 1:13-16 (NKJV)

- ¹³Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;
¹⁴as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance;
¹⁵but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,
¹⁶because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”

In the New Living Translation, 1 Peter 1:13 says we are to prepare our minds for action and to exercise self-control. What this text speaks is that we must be mindful what we yield our thoughts to. If our mind is not prepared, or divided, or “doubled minded” as James calls it, we will be unstable in our walk. To sure up our footing, we must gird up the loins of our mind. We must prepare our minds by embracing a winner’s attitude of mind. When it first aired, I was a follower of the television show “American Idol”. What I came to noticed was that when Randy believed someone had just hit a home run in their vocals, he would make the statement “they are in it to win it”. Every time I heard this, I thought to myself this person is focused on going all the way or reaching the point of no return in their endeavor to succeed. If we have a drive and desire to go all the way with God, we must maintain our focus on the prize that awaits us at the end of the journey.

And finally, but not all inclusive, we must set our affections on things above not on things of this world.

Colossians 3:1-2 (NKJV)

- ¹If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God.
²Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

Affection is defined as tender attachment, a propensity, a disposition, a feeling that includes an inclination or liking, a bend of the mind toward a particular object. Webster’s dictionary says affection holds a middle ground between disposition which is natural and passion which is excited by the presence of an exciting object. Other nuances of affection include a settled good will, love or zealous attachment or leaning. A feeling of fondness, tenderness or warmth. Now using these meanings of affection think about what it

means to set our mind on the things that are above. Ask yourself “Is my mind bent toward heaven or toward earth?” To what is my mind most tenderly attached. I think most of us would experience varying degrees of conviction that perhaps our tender feelings are focused far too often on the temporal and visible than on the eternal and invisible. The setting of one’s mind, affection and heart on things above involves an act of one’s will and is something we must choose to do daily, continually, moment by moment. We are to have a mind that is set on seeking the things above or the things of God. To do this, we must: spend time in the Word of God; spend time in prayer; spend time with things that builds us up in God instead of merely entertaining us; we must gather with others in the Lord in edification of our spirit man.

CONCLUSION

God calls us to complete our journey with Him. He desires us to go all the way so He can fulfill His promises through us. So, what does it take to go all the way through? It takes spiritual maturity, growing up in God and even dying to self. Dying to self, or the desires of the flesh, isn’t easy, but it’s how we gain freedom from the things that are holding us back in our spiritual walk. If we are to reach the point of no return, we must be willing and obedient to follow the Lord no matter what the cost, no matter what the circumstance, no matter what the situation. So finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. Pick up your cross and endure hardship as a good soldier of Christ. And know of a surety that the labor you sow in the Lord will not be in vain.

God’s peace and blessing be upon you...

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