

A POINT OF NO RETURN

1Samuel 14¹⁴ Like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be recovered, so we must die.

There is a point in every journey that is past the half way mark. Once this point is reached there can be no return but one must continue his course. There are points in life that we can never regain.

1. When a person reaches the age of accountability.

- a. The government says that at age 18 you may vote or go to war. Now cannot have a driving license until age 18.
- b. The Jews considered a son at age 12 when had his bar mitzvah to be a man.
- c. The government does not hold one accountable for a financial decision until the age of 21.

There is no absolute age of accountability. But there comes a time in everyone's life that we are not children we are adults. Life no longer is a fantasy or makes believe.

1Corinthians 13¹¹ When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me.

d. Paul addresses the issue of not remaining spiritual babes. Hebrews 5¹³ For everyone who partakes *only* of milk *is* unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. ¹⁴ But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, *that is*, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

2. When the soul loses its innocence.

Once a person has been born again he can never plead ignorance with God. Acts 17³⁰ In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. ³¹ For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead.”

Once a person has had the plan of salvation presented to them they are forever accountable of the truth they have rejected.

King Saul is rejected because he rejected the word of the Lord
1Samuel 15 23...Because you have rejected the word of the Lord ,
he has rejected you as king.”

Once a person has received salvation he can never go back and claim a state of ignorance.

3. Where God’s mercy ends and his wrath begins.

2Peter 2 ²⁰ If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. ²¹ It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them.

God is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

A person can sear their conscience, reach a point that they are past feeling, become so self willed and rebellious until their hear becomes hard and God leaves them alone.

Genesis 6 3....My spirit shall not always strive with man.

1Samuel 16 ¹⁴ Now the Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord tormented him.

John 13 ²⁷ As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. “What you are about to do, do quickly,” Jesus told him, ²⁸ but no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him.

4. When we pass from this world to the next.

Luke 16 ²⁵ “But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and

you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.'

Hell will be filled with those saying, "If you will only let me go back I will do it differently."

Heaven is filled with those who would say, "I don't want to go back!"

5. When we decide to live for Jesus Christ.

A. We must count the cost

a. Like Elisha we burn our plow and follow

b. Jesus said in so many words you can't go back.

Luke 14³³ In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.

B. We gain eternal life.