

THERE IS A POINT OF NO RETURN

Romans 1:20-32; Genesis 6:3; Luke 19:41-42

(This sermon exactly as preached many years ago)

Introduction: It is well known in the aviation field that there is a point when an airplane cannot turn around back to where it started from but must continue on, no matter the crisis, no matter the situation for there is just not enough fuel to get the airplane back to where it started from. In the spiritual field, in the area of the Holy Spirit dealing with people, there seems to also be a point when a person has gone so far in rejecting God's offer of eternal life through Jesus, that the Holy Spirit backs off and doesn't try to convict that person anymore and leaves that person to his/her eternal destination of permanent separation from God. Only after much calling is a person left to his/her sins.

Only those who deliberately turn away, only those who continually ignore the calling of the Holy Spirit are left.

Many have heard the Gospel and have been convicted of their sins and know that they need Jesus but have so far said "no." Those people are in grave danger.

Through the ages God has had only ONE plan and that is the plan of FAITH.

- By faith Able pleased God.
- By faith Abraham believed and followed God, and so on through the Bible.

God has never had any other plan except that sinners put their faith and trust in Him.

- Sacrifices did not save - it was by faith.
- Baptism did not save - it was by faith.
- Church membership did not save - it was by faith.
- Works did not save - it was by faith.

ONLY THROUGH FAITH does God save.

- The Holy Spirit called Abel
- The Holy Spirit called Cain
- The Holy Spirit called Noah
- The Holy Spirit called all the people in Noah's day
- The Holy Spirit called Moses
- The Holy Spirit called Pharaoh
- The Holy Spirit called Paul
- The Holy Spirit called King Agrippa
- Some obeyed the Holy Spirit and some did not.

God called thousands of people in Noah's day who were very wicked but no more so than the people of today.

They ignored God and made fun of God's man Noah and his obedience to God by building the Ark.

God said a long time ago that *"...My spirit shall not always strive with man..." (Genesis 6:3)* At some point God may withdraw His Holy Spirit.

- Before the flood God called and called but finally gave the people up to their sins.
- One can read through the Bible and find where God called and called and then finally gave the people up.

During Jesus' time, God gave some people up. Over and over Jesus preached to the Pharisees, they heard Him, they saw His miracles, they were convicted, yet they rejected Jesus.
- Jesus warned them of their great sin of rejecting God.

Everyone who has heard the Gospel, everyone who has realized that they needed Jesus, everyone who has felt the Holy Spirit tugging at their heart, everyone who has kept on refusing to accept Jesus, everyone is in the greatest danger!

- If a person persists in putting Jesus Christ off stands in the dangerous position of crossing the point of no return, the point when the Holy Spirit withdraws and there will be no more opportunity to be saved.
- **Luke 19:41-42** - Jesus cried over these people. They had heard Him preach many times and had heard His teachings, they had seen His miracles, but they still refused to accept Him. They were lost and they were on their way to hell, lost, doomed forever.

When a person attends Church, Satan doesn't mind too much, just don't make any "hasty" decisions for Jesus.

In the very city where Jesus preached, prayed, wept and cried, the people refused and ignored His saving power and went on to their sinful destination.

- This happened thousands of years ago, yet the very same thing happens every day in our time as well.

God is never at fault when a person goes to hell! For God said: *"...As I live, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his wicked way and live..."* *"..Turn ye! Turn ye! Why will ye die?"*

Do not trifle with the patience of God. God is merciful, God is good, God is long suffering, God doesn't want any to perish - BUT - There is a limit, there is a time when God says "enough!"

Let a person ignore the love of God, reject the love of God, forget all about the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, turn a deaf ear/heart to the calling of the Holy Spirit and see if the Holy Spirit will withdraw himself from that person and that person will be left in his/her sins, forever doomed.

If anybody in this room has ever intended to be saved, if anybody here has ever intended to turn to God,
DO IT NOW!

- Don't trifle with the patience of God, turn to God right now, before He withdraws His Spirit.
- Do you feel something "burning" in your heart? That's God! Does your heart feel as if it might burst? That's God. Does your conscience say "Yes, Yes, accept Jesus Christ," that's the Holy Spirit. Don't fight God. Don't fight the Holy Spirit. Yield, say YES!
- If you can feel something then that's GOOD for God hasn't left you yet. You can still accept Jesus, God hasn't given up on you yet. You have not crossed the point of no return.

During a revival a man came up to the evangelist after a service and told him that he could not be saved for he had fought, resisted and said no now for years and through the years, the feelings he once felt, the thoughts he once had about being saved gradually faded away and now he can hear dynamic, God anointed preaching, and not feel a thing. The Holy Spirit had left him. He felt nothing anymore. He didn't even have a deep yearning anymore to be saved. He was just empty.

Each time a person hears the gospel preached, each time a person puts God off, that person's feelings will grow cooler and cooler and the fight to resist becomes just a little bit easier and the impulse to say "yes" to Jesus is not as strong as it once was.

There are many things that are identified as "serious" in one's lifetime, but the most serious thing is to play with God, to put God off, to ignore those feelings the Holy Spirit sends.

- When will Gods last visit be with you? When will the Holy Spirit stir your hear for the last time? Is i right now? Will it be next week? Next Month? It can happen, it has happened to others.

If you have any degree of desire to be saved, then for the sake of your very own soul, do it NOW!

Which will it be - Jesus Christ or Satan?

Where will your eternal home be - Heaven or Hell?

Your very all is at stake, your very all. Ask Jesus to come into your heart right now, this very moment. Don't delay any longer.