

Where Do We Go From Here?  
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In the history of our Orthodox Church there have been many historical events which have become turning points. These events have affected Christian life in many ways. The progress and growth of our Church have come about because of these turning points – when Church life turned, as it were, somewhat from its straight and narrow path toward a new horizon.

The first turning point was the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. His doctrines of love appealed to the people and followers came forth, followers which were willing to sacrifice anything to fulfill His doctrine.

However, not everyone believed in Christ's doctrines. Saul for example, was one of the most feared of all Christian persecutors. Yet, his acceptance of Christianity, after being blinded for three days, is truly a great turning point in our Church History. This man's willingness to change his ways made St. Paul one of the pillars of our Church.

Even after Paul's acceptance of Christianity, Christian persecutions did not stop. The Christians were becoming so devoted that the leaders feared their growing ranks.

It was not until after the Church had endured three major periods of persecution that history took a turn. Emperor Constantine recognized Christianity in 313 A.D., when he issued Edict of Milan. Now that Christianity became one of the tolerated religions, and no longer punishable by death, it spread throughout Rome, making it the first Christian Empire.

Even now the Church had no distinct path it could follow. The increased number of members of the Church were all not strong believers. Some, such as Arian and the iconoclasts began to make their own rules. Nevertheless, the Church had something which enabled it to turn down the right road: something that led it through the Schism, the fall of Constantinople, and the Bolshevik Revolution.

It is this same "something" that can lead us to choose the correct path through our lives. Every now and then we reach a dead end, or a fork in the "road". We constantly are asking ourselves, "Where do we go from here???" We are just not asking the right person! Ask god, as the early Christians did. They succeeded and survive, why can't you? Next time you run into an impasse: stop, say a prayer and ask for guidance through the turning points of life.