

“What Hinders Me From Being Baptized?”

The Ethiopian eunuch asked this question during a Bible study somewhere in an isolated place between Jerusalem and Gaza. Philip, the evangelist, was summoned by an angel of the Lord to go to this place and help the eunuch understand the Scriptures (Acts 8:26-30). Philip preached unto him Jesus, and the eunuch's response was, *“And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?”* (Acts 8:36).

The picture painted by Luke in Acts chapter eight is something different from what we observe today. The question, “Why can't I be baptized?” is seldom asked. However, the question “Why should I be baptized?” is a prominent question. It is obvious that so many people today are doing their best to avoid baptism.

There are some reasons why a person would not be baptized. Some have rejected baptism, *“But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him”* (Luke 7:30).

Some find themselves being hindered by Satan. It is a fact that Satan wants to keep people from obeying the Lord, *“Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us”* (1 Thessalonians 2:18). *“And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat”* Luke 22:31). *“When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side”* (Matthew 13:19).

Uncertainty regarding age prevents some from being baptized. The question regarding the age of accountability is a most difficult one to answer. The Lord revealed the requirements for baptism. One must be old enough to believe, *“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, he that believeth not shall be condemned”* (Mark 16:16). Paul baptized members of the Philippian jailor's family, but it is obvious they were old enough to believe. *“And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. and they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway”* (Acts 16:31-33).

A lack of understanding the purpose of baptism will hinder one from being baptized. *“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost”* (Acts 2:38). If someone is void of understanding that salvation is dependant upon baptism, then they will not see the need to be baptized. It is unfortunate that so much error is taught concerning this important matter. Men say, there is no need, you are saved prior to baptism. The Bible however says, *“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned”* (Mark 16:16).

It is tragic when one is hindered from obeying God's command. *“O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?”* (Galatians 3:1). What is delaying your decision?

-Bill Dedmon 12/17/06
