

What Doth Hinder Me To Be Baptized?

No. 35

Introduction.

- I. Several years after the church was established a eunuch from Ethiopia went to Jerusalem to worship God. As he was returning home he was sitting in this chariot reading from the prophet Isaiah. The Spirit said to Philip, "Go near, and join thyself to this chariot." So Philip ran to him and asked, "Understandest thou what thou readest?" The eunuch said, "How can I except some one guide me?" He then invited Philip to come up into the chariot and Philip, beginning from the place where he was reading, preached unto him Jesus. After they had gone their way, they came unto a certain water and the eunuch said, "Behold, here is water; What doth hinder me to be baptized?" Philip answered, "If thou believest with all thy heart, thou mayest." The eunuch replied, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." (Acts 8:26-37). The eunuch commanded the chariot to stop and "they both went down into the water" and Philip baptized the eunuch.
- II. This question that the eunuch asked Philip "What doth hinder me to be baptized?" is an important one for us to consider this morning. If you are not a Christian, what hinders you from being baptized?
 - I. **A Lack Of Faith** - A lack of faith hinders many people from being baptized into Christ.
 - A. Christ commanded one to be baptized, but many do not have enough faith to take Christ at His word. They challenge Christ and the apostles with their human reasoning. They say, "I can't see what getting wet has to do with salvation."
 - B. They do not realize that baptism, in part, is a test of faith. God has taught that only those who have enough faith to go to the waters of baptism and be baptized will receive the remission of sins.
 - II. **A Lack Of Repentance** - A lack of repentance hinders many others from being baptized.
 - A. Many people do not want to give up their sinful ways and live a transformed life. They do not want to seek the kingdom of God first in their lives.
 - B. Those who possess this attitude need to consider those warnings found in the holy scriptures. (Lk. 13:5; Acts 3:19; 17:30).
 1. These scriptures affirm that unless one repents and turns to God he will perish - be lost in hell. This hell will not last for a day, a week, a year, but for eternity.
 2. When a person has spend a thousand years in hell and then a thousand times that he will be no closer to the end than when he started. Hell is endless.
 3. It is essential that one repent and be baptized to be covered by the blood of Jesus and to enter heaven.
- III. **A Lack Of Teaching** - A lack of teaching hinders many from being baptized.
 - A. Many have never been taught the essentiality of baptism for salvation. They have been led to believe that it is non-essential, but nothing could be further from the truth.