"WHAT DOTH HINDER ME TO BE BAPTIZED?"
Acts 8:36

INTRODUCTION:
1. This is the question that the Eunuch asked Philip after he had preached unto him Jesus -- Acts 8:35
2. Philip answered, "If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest" -- Acts 8:37
   (1) So one thing that can hinder men from being baptized is UNBELIEF -- John 8:24
   (2) Mk. 16:16 -- faith comes before baptism
3. Let us study some things that hinder men from being baptized.

I. UNCERTAINTY REGARDING AGE HINDERS BAPTISM
1. The question of whether or not a child is old enough to be baptized is a frequent one.
   (1) It is a question that disturbs both the child and his parents.
   (2) It is a question that is difficult to answer because: No definite age is given nor can be given because of the difference in children.
   (3) It is a question that involves dangers on either hand
      1. There is the danger of over persuading children who are not ready to obey the gospel.
      2. There is the danger of discouraging children who are ready.
2. The answer to the question lies with the individual child in each case.
   (1) Basically, it depends upon his knowledge of the plan of salvation and his need of salvation.
   (2) Is the child capable of sin? -- Does he or she know right from wrong? -- Does he feel the guilt of sin? -- Acts 2:38; Luke 19:10

II. LACK OF UNDERSTANDING HINDERS BAPTISM
1. Christ said, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them." -- Matt. 28: 19; Eph. 5:17; Mk. 16:15 - 16; I Cor. 1:21; Rom. 6:17
2. His arrangement calls for an understanding heart in conversion -- Matt. 13:15; Acts 8:30; Rom. 6:17; John 6:44-45
3. Man cannot be ignorantly converted -- Psa. 19:7; Rom. 8:2; James 1:25, 22
4. One must know the gospel:
   (1) The FACTS -- I Cor. 15: 1 - 5
   (2) The COMMANDS -- Hear, Believe, Repent, Confess, Be Baptized -- Rom. 10:17; Mark 16:15 - 16; Acts 2:38
5. Philip's preaching -- Acts 8:12 (The Kingdom, the name of Jesus, Baptism)
6. One must understand the Baptism of Christ -- Acts 20:25; 28:31
   (1) The ELEMENT is water -- Acts 8:36, 38
   (2) The ADMINISTRATOR is man -- Matt. 28:19; Acts 8:38
(3) The ACTION is immersion -- Rom. 6:3 - 4; Col. 2:12

(4) The SUBJECT:
   1. A SINNER -- Acts 22:16
   2. A TAUGHT sinner -- Matt. 28:19
   3. A BELIEVING sinner -- Mk. 16:16
   4. One who has REPENTED -- Acts 2:38
   5. One who CONFESSES Christ -- Acts 8:37

(5) The DESIGN, or purpose:
   1. SALVATION -- Mk. 16:16; Acts 22:16; I Pet. 3:21; I Cor. 6:11; Eph. 5:26

7. A failure to understand the need of baptism hinders many from obeying.
   (1) Many teach that baptism is NOT NECESSARY to salvation.
   (2) The NEED of being baptized is plainly taught in the Word of God -- Acts 2:38; 22:16; Gal. 3:26 - 27; I Pet. 3:21; Matt. 28:19

III. THE SUBSTITUTION OF SPRINKLING AND POURING FOR IMMERSION HAS HINDERED MILLIONS

1. When one has been sprinkled, or had water poured on him, he has not been baptized.
2. The Greek word "baptism" (noun); Baptizo (verb) means -- Immersion; submersion; to dip
3. Baptism requires:
   (1) Much WATER -- John 3:23
   (2) A going DOWN INTO THE WATER -- Acts 8:38
   (3) A BURIAL -- Rom. 6:3 - 4
   (4) A RESURRECTION -- Col. 2:12
   (5) A BIRTH -- John 3:5
   (6) A COMING UP OUT OF THE WATER -- Acts 8:39; Matt. 3:16

IV. INFANT BAPTISM HAS KEPT MULTITUDES FROM BEING BAPTIZED

1. They received something in infancy that was called "baptism", and they go through life thinking they have been baptized.
2. When in reality, an infant cannot be baptized because he cannot comply with the necessary conditions of baptism:
   (1) Infants cannot be taught -- Matt. 28:19
   (2) Infants cannot believe -- Mk. 16:16
   (3) Infants cannot repent and have nothing to repent of -- Acts 2:38
   (4) Infants cannot confess -- Rom. 10:10; Acts 8:37
3. The doctrine of "original sin" gave birth to the error of infant baptism.
   (1) Original sin is not taught in the Bible -- Ezek. 18:20
V. INDIFFERENCE AND PROCRASTINATION HINDERS BAPTISM

1. The love of the world and its pleasures keeps many from obeying the gospel
   
   (1) They cannot bring themselves to repent of their sins and obey the gospel.
   
   (2) They are unwilling to turn from sin.
   
   (3) They love its pleasures "for a season" -- Heb. 11:25
   
   (4) If they die in this state they are lost -- II Thess. 1:8 - 9

2. Procrastination is a great hindrance to being baptized.
   
   (1) There are many who are convinced of the truth regarding baptism, and of their need to be baptized, but they "haven't gotten around to it".
   
   (2) Satan says, "There is plenty of time" "Don't hurry".
     
     1. Felix -- Acts 24:25
     
   
   (3) The result is: Good intentions, death and damnation

CONCLUSION

1. The Word of God offers no hope for sinners who are NEVER BAPTIZED -- Mk. 16:16; II Thess. 1:7 - 9

2. What will you do with Jesus and His command to be baptized?

3. Won't you obey today?

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