“What Doth Hinder Me to be Baptized?”
Acts 8: 36
Donald Townsley

Introduction
1. The Ethiopian Eunuch is the picture of a man desiring baptism.
   a. He was asking, “What does hinder me?”
   b. While many today ask, “Why must I be baptized?”
2. There are those in the audience today who need to consider this question.
3. Why you should NOT be hindered from being baptized:
   b. Baptism is a command of Christ – Mark 16:16.
4. The work of Satan is to HINDER any good work – I Thess. 2:18.
   a. But, to let anyone or anything hinder us from submitting to God’s will and Christ’s command means certain condemnation.

I. UNDERTAINTY REGARDING AGE HINDERS BAPTISM
   a. The question of whether or not a child is old enough is a frequent one.
      i. The question disturbs both the child and the parents.
   b. It is a question that is difficult to answer because:
      i. No definite age is given, nor can be given, because of the differences in children.
   c. The answer to the question lies with the individual child in each case.
      i. Basically, it depends upon his knowledge of the plan of salvation and his need of salvation.
      ii. He must know what sin is, and be a sinner – Acts 2:38.

II. UNBELIEF HINDERS MEN FROM BEING BAPTIZED
   a. Philip’s answer in Acts 8:37: “If thou believest with all thine heart”.
   b. No person can be baptized scripturally without faith – Mark 16:16; Acts 8:12; Heb. 11:6.
   c. It is a faith that works through love – Gal. 5:6; James 2: 17 – 24.

III. A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING HINDERS BAPTISM
      i. Many misunderstand that is IMMERSION, not sprinkling nor pouring – Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12.
      ii. The ONE baptism (Eph. 4:5) is NOT Holy Spirit baptism, nor fire baptism – it is WATER baptism – Matt. 3:11; 2 Thess. 1:8 – 9; Acts 8:38; I Pet. 3:21; Matt. 28: 19 – 20.
      iii. Penitent believers are to be baptized, not babies – Acts 2:38.
      iv. Some receiving in infancy something called baptism go through life thinking they have been baptized.
   b. A failure to understand the NEED of baptism hinders many from obeying.
      i. Satan says, “There is no need to be baptized; it is unimportant, non-essential.”
      ii. The need of being baptized is plainly taught in the Word of God:
         2. Puts one into a relationship with Christ – Gal. 3: 26 – 27; Rom. 6: 3 – 4; I Cor. 12:13.
3. Baptism saves – I Pet. 3:21; Mark 16:16

IV. PREJUDICE AND SENTIMENT HINDERS BAPTISM

a. Prejudice has always been a device of Satan to hinder obedience to God.
   i. Prejudice: “Preconceived opinions and unwillingness to see”—Matt. 13:15.
   ii. Why are people prejudiced? – Because they think more of their denomination, their creed, or their preacher, than they do the Word of God.

b. Sentiment is a great factor that prevents people from being baptized:
   i. Being baptized into Christ and becoming a Christian will cause one to lose old friends many times, and these mean more to some people than salvation.
   ii. Many times, one’s loved ones are offended – Luke 12:51; Matt. 10:37.
   iii. Love of family is good, but love for God must come first – Acts 5:29.

CONCLUSION

The word of God offers no hope for sinners who are never baptized – Mk. 16:16; 2 Thess. 1: 8- 9.