

“Why Be Baptized? (I)”

By: Michael R. Hughes

Text: Acts 8:35-39

Theme: To find out why the eunuch was baptized.

Introduction:

1. Must talk about baptism because the doctrine is under attack.
 - a. We must study in order to be able to defend the truth.
 - b. Spiritual walls of Zion are being battered.
2. For over a century this has probably been the most discussed religious subject.
3. Preached by nearly all, yet greatly abused.
4. Simple lesson - Presidential candidate in 1976 talked about the “new birth”
IIPeter 1:22-23.

Discussion:

- I. Groundwork - the acts itself.
 - A. Who?
 1. All Christians spoken of in the New Testament were baptized - IICorinthians 1:13 - (No significance to this question otherwise).
 2. A candidate for baptism must be a believer -
 - a. Must be old enough to obey the complete plan of salvation.

- b. Revelation 22:17 –
“whosoever will.”
- c. The eunuch was a believer in
Christ – Acts 8:37.

B. How? Immersion.

- 1. “Buried” - Romans 6:3,4;
Colossians 2:12.
- 2. Can’t be born of something less
than yourself.
- 3. The eunuch was immersed -
Acts 8:38,39.

II. But the question at hand is - “Why be
baptized?”

A. Command of God - Acts 8:35.

- 1. Philip preached unto him
“Jesus.”
 - a. The Eunuch was not obeying
Philip or any other man.
 - b. Philip’s authority was
“Jesus.”
 - 1) “Thus saith the Lord”
preaching.
 - 2) *Began at the same
scripture.*
- 2. Jesus commanded baptism -
Matthew 28:18-20.
- 3. Acts 10:48; Luke 6:46.
- 4. We must exercise the same
authority as did Philip – “preach
Jesus.”
- 5. Some talk about commands not
essential to salvation.
 - a. E.g. singing.
 - b. But all commands are
essential for going to heaven.

B. For the remission of sins - Acts 8:32.

- 1. Led as a sheep in a slaughter.
 - a. Pictures Jesus’ crucifixion.
 - b. He was crucified that we
might have remission of sins
– Mark 10:45; Luke 11:10.
- 2. The picture of the sacrificial
lamb - John 1:29.
- 3. Acts 2:38; Acts 16:31-33; Acts
22:16.

- C. Nothing to hinder him - Acts 8:36-37.
1. Unbelief could have hindered him.
 - a. Can hinder today.
 - b. But the eunuch believed.
 2. There are many hindrances that face people today.
 - a. Lusts - Titus 2:11-12.
 - b. Greed - "Can't sell my liquor business."
 - c. Parents or companions - Luke 14:26 (Doctors, other preachers).
 - d. Pride - Can't humbly submit to such a lowly ordinance - Proverbs 16:18; James 4:6.

Conclusion:

1. Have you been baptized?
2. What doth hinder you?
3. Why tarriest thou?

Invitation: