

Acts 8:36

What hinders some people from being  
baptized?

# I Afraid Of What Others May Think?

- Mt.10:37
  - What could anyone do to deserve more loyalty than Jesus?
- Jn.12:42-43
  - It takes courage to be different
  - Jn.9:20-22

‘But exhort one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin’ – Hb.3:13

- Why would you not do it through the deceitfulness of sin?
- Someone says, “My disease does not.

- DECLINE – reasonable treatment

- DELAY – for something frivolous

- Lk.13:24-25

- Lk.17:26-29

- Ja.4:13-14

Acts 24:24-25

### **III Do Not Realize** **What Is At Stake?**

- Some do not think their condition is very serious
- “Surely a ‘good kid’ is not lost!”
  - Ac.8:28...
  - Ac.9
  - Ac.10:2

# What is sin?

- **Commission:** do something wrong
  - **Thought.** Ga.5:19-21
  - **Word.** Ep.4:29
  - **Deed.** 1 Jn.3:4
- **Omission:** fail to do what is right, Ja.4:17
  - Mt.25:41-46; Lk.16
  - One who does not repent of sins has increased them. 2 Co.12:21
  - Ga.2:21

## IV Love Of The World?

- 1 Jn.2:15
  - Some are reluctant to give up things, friends, and activities they enjoy
- Great insult to God to value His creation over His salvation

## V Uncertainty About Age of Accountability?

- Issue presents a double danger
  - Danger of over-encouraging
    - The choice must be *theirs*, not ours
  - Danger of discouraging

## Many false views

1. There is no age of accountability; babies are sinners from birth [Ezk.18:20]
2. Age 20 (based on Nu.13-14)
3. Age 12 (based on Lk.2)
4. Age 30 (based on Lk.3:23)



5. A child should live the life before baptism to show he can do it

– Live life before being born or taught?

6. A child has to know everything in NT on the subject

– Some adults grow in knowledge, compare it with little knowledge they had when baptized – demand re-baptism.

Hb.5:12. [Eunuch] [Gentiles, 1 Co.6:11]

– Some baptized too young to understand

## There is an age of accountability

- Not decided chronologically, but individually
- Children mature at different rates
- Some are taught Scripture all their life (2 Tim.3:15); others are not

‘to revive, regain strength and vigor: Ro.7:9; sin is alive, indeed, and vigorous among men ever since the fall of Adam; yet it is destitute of power...in innocent children ignorant of the law; but when they come to a knowledge of the law, **sin recovers its power in them also**’ – Th.

Obvious to those whose mental capacity renders them unaccountable

– Ro.7:9, Saul . . .

- sin ‘revived’

– Ro.14:12, Saul lived long enough to become accountable.

# Principles

1. Child old enough to understand plan of salvation puts soul in jeopardy by waiting
  - Ac.8:39
2. Two questions:
  - Do you feel the weight of sin on your conscience?
  - If so, what hinders you?