

## Assumptions

Growing up I was raised in a way to never assume anything. Even though I was raised this way it is still extremely easy to automatically assume things. I started working in the retail field as a stock person. First time I ever worked in a position like this and my trainer just assumed I already knew everything. Little did they know when it came time to closing and a lot of work did not get accomplished of facing or pulling everything up to the front of the peg hook rack (this was done to make it look full if we were low on stock). My trainer came up to me know and asked me why nothing was finished. I responded, "you assumed I already knew everything, and I don't."

I was recently talking with another brother in Christ. We were talking about how so many today are getting further and further away from basic principles. It came to a point when he said that a man delivered a lesson and said, "well you all know God's plan of Salvation" and that was it. Brethren, we cannot assume that everyone knows the gospel. Each time we encounter someone new we need to approach as if they may not know. Build from that and then engage further into study. I want you to consider some things that we can easily assume and if we do, we can be or cause someone else to be lost.

### I Could Assume You Already Studied

How right would it have been for Peter to assume that Cornelius already studied and knew the gospel. How right would it have been for Paul to assume all studied and know whom he was preaching about? I know when we think about this, it is ludicrous to think that the apostles would assume everyone already studied. Considering that everyone did have a Bible or the internet at hand to read and study in those times. People who did study most likely had to go a great distance since so few had access to the scrolls that were written during these times.

How right then is it for us to assume that everyone we encounter already have studied God's Word. The reality of it all is that everyone may have access to a Bible in some way or another, yet few people take the time to study it. It is one to say that we have read the Bible it is another to say we have studied it.

In **II Timothy 2:15 (KJV)** the verse reminds us that we need to study to show ourselves approved to God. The New King James Version says to be diligent to show ourselves approved. It is necessary for all to study (**Hebrews 11:6**).

In fact, those of Berea were more noble or fair minded than those of Thessalonica (**Acts 17:11**). How is this possible, we may ask? They received the word that was taught to them. Then after receiving the word they searched the Scriptures or they examined the Scriptures to find out whether the things they received were accurate and true. They studied God's Word.

I cannot assume that you have already studied God's Word when speaking to someone that may not have obeyed the gospel. It is an injustice to the person that I may be talking to, and I am not fulfilling my responsibilities as a Christian.

### I Could Assume You Already Know Sin

When Paul was writing to Rome, he never assumed that they fully understood sin yet. In **Romans 3:23** he tells them that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. He later states in **Romans 6:23** that the wages of sin of sin is death.

At Pentecost Peter convicts of the sin that was committed for instance when Jesus Christ the Son of God was hung on the cross. He later in the account tells them that they need to repent (**Acts 2:38**). They needed to recognize their sin and turn away from it. He never assumed that they already knew and decided not to tell them about it.

I cannot assume that you already know sin and the consequences of sin being eternal separation from God. Jesus said that many go by the broad way because it is easy (**Matthew 7:13 ESV**). Sin is an easy path to choose. The worldly influence is more toward committing sin more than anything else. Yet the path of sin leads to eternal destruction.

If I assume that one already knows the subject of sin, then I am not doing my duty as a Christian (**Mark 16:15**). I would be doing a disservice to you or anyone if I already assumed this. The world in a majority sense is living in sin and needs to come to repentance. If I assume one already knows sin, then their soul could be separated from God because I did not do anything to help. Do not be deceived about sin (**James 1:14-16**)

### I Could Assume You Know God's Plan of Salvation

If I decided to go up to the pulpit and deliver a lesson and it was the best lesson that I ever taught or spoke in my life but when it came time for the invitation and I just said "well you know it" what good have truly done? I know that many even

in the Lord's church, have mentioned in time past that they just hear the same drawn-out thing. They have heard over the years so many lessons concerning God's plan of Salvation, baptism, or even grace. Yet brethren how will people know these things if we assume everyone already knows it entirely?

I do not think that you can ever talk enough about God's plan of Salvation. Consider with me in the book of Acts all the conversion accounts and even just the teachings and lessons preached in this one book. I can never see or assume in any of the teachings that those preaching to others already knew the gospel plan of salvation. The Ethiopian Eunuch in **Acts 8** was taught by Philip and when they came to water the eunuch asked what he needed to do to be saved. The Philippian jailer was taught by Paul in the prison and he and his household heard what they need to do be saved in **Acts 16**. Peter was in the house of Cornelius, and he taught him and his house what they needed to do to be saved in **Acts 10**.

I can never assume that someone knows these things. I am not fulfilling my duty as a Christian and I am not serving others and delivering them the good news. Souls can be lost if we assume. Are we assuming everyone already knows or are we going out and sharing with others the good news of the gospel?

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