

## Making False Assumptions

Written by Wayne Teel

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There is a real danger of reaching false conclusions when reading the Bible if we are not careful how we think and reason. One of the reasons for religious division today is caused by folks making false assumptions about what the Bible truly teaches. This danger must be guarded against as it can be fatal to a person's soul.

Example 1: Many people make the false assumption that it is wrong to judge. If you try to point out sin in the lives of people they will often say, "Who are you to judge me? Don't you know it is wrong to judge?" Almost everyone knows the scripture that states; "Judge not that ye be not judged" (Matthew 7:1). They simply ignore the rest of that passage as they stop right there. As Paul Harvey used to say, "And now, the rest of the story."

Jesus was condemning the hypocritical judging of those who were guilty of sin themselves, but were ignoring their own sin, and condemning others (Matthew 7:1-5; Romans 2:1-4). Jesus plainly said: "Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment" (John 7:24). Obviously, it is NOT wrong to judge!

We are required to make judgment calls all the time. Paul told the Corinthians to judge what he taught (1 Corinthians 10:15) to make sure he was teaching the truth. You, dear reader, must judge what I teach in light of what God's word says. If you don't make judgments from what you are taught, you can be deceived.

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Example 2: The “FAITH ONLY” doctrine was formulated because of a false assumption concerning faith. While most denominations teach this doctrine, the OPPOSITE is taught in the Bible. “Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and NOT by faith only” (James 2:24). This passage plainly condemns the faith only doctrine and yet men teach it anyway!

To any honest man, the doctrine of “FAITH ONLY” can be proven NOT to be taught in the Bible. But, on the other hand, you cannot teach anything to a dishonest man! The question we all must ask ourselves is, “Am I an honest man?” Friend, will you take what the Bible teaches, or will you take what men teach?

The warning is clear; be careful of reaching false conclusions. Your soul is at stake!

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