

2. Is there something greater than myself that I believe in and am living for?

The original Believers were Jewish and had been practicing their _____
_____ for almost _____ and
they are now seeing those traditions . . . and that way of life . . . being displaced.

_____ becomes the focal point and _____
begins to fade into the background.

Originally _____ were the core leaders, but now leadership
begins to transition from the Apostles to _____ and
_____ (Acts 13:1).

IMPORTANT LESSON: They believed that God was doing something
bigger than them

*Acts 15:13 – 15 – ¹³ . . . James spoke up: “Brothers, listen to me. ¹⁴ Simon has described to us how God at first showed his concern by taking from the Gentiles a people for himself. ¹⁵ The **words of the prophets are in agreement** with this . . . (quotes Amos 9: 11 & 12)*

3. It’s going to be OK because “it all belongs to God.”

¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

⁶ He said to me: “It is finished. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. ⁷ He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.” Revelation 21:1 – 7

Some things to think about

- Is there something greater than yourself that you believe in and are living for? What is it?
- Whose agenda drives your life, yours or God’s work of restoring his creation? How can you tell?
- Spend some time soaking up Revelation 21 & 22 and the words of encouragement there. How does knowing how the “Story” ends help you (or not help) get through the messes of this broken life?
- If knowing God’s Story and how it ends doesn’t help navigate life, what do you think is missing?



Part 10

Square Pegs & Round Holes
Acts 15

Here's what I'm learning

1. The Christian faith isn't about buttonholing people & forcing them into the same mold as me.

Who was in the Church?

- _____
- _____

"Are not all these men who are speaking **Galileans**?" – Acts 2:7

- _____
- People who were _____
- Men & _____
- _____
- Old & _____
- Most importantly – there were _____

We have a natural tendency to make **our brand** of living "**The Norm**" and insist that everyone else around us conform.

I'm learning that it's not about _____ into _____
_____ It's about following _____ and _____

IMPORTANT: The Gentiles are not required to become Jews and the Jews were not required to stop being Jewish.

They were to conform their _____ and their _____ in their jobs to _____ and his ways not to the cultural preferences of the people around them.