

LETTING GOD BE GOD

JERUSALEM COUNCIL, PART III, ACTS 15:12-18

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: The believing Pharisees had difficulty understanding why their God would save an irreligious people of low class and morals.

WITH HIS WORK—Paul and Barnabas told about all the miraculous signs God had done among the Gentiles through them. “The argument was: ‘God is working. Who are we to stand against God?’” James Montgomery Boice, Acts, p. 265. (**Acts 15:12, 13, Acts 10:44-46, fn 10:45, John 4:34-38, 46-54, fn 4:34, fn 4:48, John 20:24-31, fn 20:29, Hebrews 2:1-4, fn 2:4**) *How could you tell that God is working in the lives of others?*

IN HIS PLANS—From the beginning God had planned for the Messiah Jesus to come to save the Gentiles. This was foretold through the prophets and recorded in Scripture, and now He has done it! (**Acts 15:13-16, Amos 9:11, 12, fn 9:11, 12, II Samuel 7:12-16, fn 7:8-16, Genesis 12:1-3, fn 12:1-3, Acts 17:10-11, fn 17:11**) *Why is it important to know the prophecies of Jesus’ “comings” in the Old and New Testaments?*

FOR HIS PEOPLE—“In the Gentiles, God was choosing a people for himself, a new *restored* people of God, Jew and Gentile in Christ, the true Israel.” John B. Polhill, The New American Commentary, Vol. 26, Acts, p. 330. (**Acts 15:17, 18, Ephesians 2:11-22, fn 2:14ff, fn 2:15, fn 2:17, 18, John 3:16, I Timothy 2:1-6, fn 2:4**) *How could you help your family understand that God loves everyone and desires that all be saved?*

The Bible was not written for our information only but for our transformation. *How will these verses change you in your walk with God and others, including your spouse?* (*Matthew 5:23,24, I Peter 3:7*)

Pray for one another’s needs.

Who in your group needs your encouragement by phone or personal attention?

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