

# GLEANINGS

Article GE-56

## THREE GROUPS OF SAVED PEOPLE

We shared in the last article (Article GE-55) that God the Father gave His Son two important tasks to accomplish while He was on this earth. If you were not able to get a copy of the article or if you have questions or comments you may call 318-346-2970. The most important task that God the Father gave His Son, of course, was to give Himself as a payment for every sinner who would repent of his or her sins and would ask that His sacrifice pay the sin debt they owed God. The second task God the Father gave His Son was to call out, to train, to commission and to empower a third agency whom He authorized to publish God's plan of salvation to the rest of the world until He came back (Luke 24:45-49). That third agency was His local New Testament churches.

There were three groups of saved people living on the earth during the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ. One of the groups continued to refer to themselves as disciples of John the Baptist all of their lives even though John had been killed just as Christ was beginning His earthly ministry (Acts 19:1-6). They chose not to become a disciple of Jesus Christ when He called out to them. Consequentially, many of them never became a part of His called out assembly that we refer to as the local church in Jerusalem.

<sup>22</sup>After this, Jesus and his disciples went into the region of Judea, where he spent some time with them baptizing. <sup>23</sup>John was also baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was an abundance of water there, and people came to be baptized, <sup>24</sup>for John had not yet been imprisoned. <sup>25</sup>Now a dispute arose between the disciples of John and a Jew about ceremonial washings. <sup>26</sup>So they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, the one who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you testified, here he is baptizing and everyone is coming to him." (John 3:22-26 The New American Bible)