

GLEANINGS

Article GE-57

THE SECOND GROUP

We shared in the last article (Article GE-56) there were three groups of saved people living on the earth during the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ. 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 first group of saved people we mentioned in the last article 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; Matthew 9:14; Luke 2:18; Luke 5:33; Luke 7:18 & John 3:22-30). They were just as saved as we are and they will spend eternity on the New Earth (Revelation 21: 1) with the rest of us. The second group of saved people living on the earth during the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ had originally come to Jesus Christ when He called to them. They became one of His disciples. However, when they found out what was required to be one of Jesus Christ's disciples and to be a member of the church that Jesus Christ was establishing they abandoned Him.

⁶⁶*From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.*
⁶⁷*"You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve.* ⁶⁸*Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.* ⁶⁹*We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."* (John 6:66-69 New International Version)

Please note that John 6:66 tells us that they no longer followed Jesus Christ. They chose not to remain one of His disciples. They refused to be taught by Him. Consequentially, they lost their membership in the church in Jerusalem that Jesus Christ was calling out and training, They were not present when Jesus Christ commissioned the church in Jerusalem (Matthew 28:18-20) nor were they present when Jesus Christ empowered the church in Jerusalem to do the work He had commissioned them to do.