

GLEANINGS

Article GE-58

THE THIRD GROUP

We shared in the last article (Article GE-57) that there were three groups of saved people living on the earth during the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ. The first group we mentioned continued to refer to themselves as disciples of John the Baptist all of their lives. 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 (John 6:66-69).

But there was a third group of saved people living on the earth during the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ. They had made a commitment to follow Him when He had called to them and invited them to become fishers of men.

19 He said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." 20 At once they left their nets and followed him. 21 He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. He called them, 22 and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him. (Matthew 4:19-22 The New American Bible)

They did not abandon Him in spite of the obstacles and according to Acts 1:1-14, they had the privilege of seeing him in His resurrected body during the 40 days between His resurrection and His ascension back into Heaven. The disciples of Jesus Christ (the local church in Jerusalem) were the group to whom Jesus promised the sevenfold power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8; Isaiah 11:1-2; Luke 24:35-53). Please note also that it was the local church in Jerusalem that Jesus authorized to be witnesses for him in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:1-9).