

GLEANINGS

Article GE-59

THEY MISSED A BLESSING

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 and had become one of His disciples but had abandoned Him (John 6:66-69).

The third group of saved people living on the earth during the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ was His disciples that did not abandon Him. According to the apostle Paul in 1st Corinthians 15:1-8, there were at least 500 members of the church in Jerusalem that had not abandoned Him and therefore had the privilege of seeing Him in His resurrected body during the 40 days between His resurrection and His ascension back into Heaven.

6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at once, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. 1st Corinthians 15:6 The New American Bible

Those who abandoned Jesus Christ missed the special blessing of companionship with Him and being instructed by Him during the 40 days between His resurrection and His ascension. The same is true of those who abandon Jesus Christ today. They allow their material bodies to have dominion over their inner, spiritual bodies after salvation (Romans 7:14-25) and they go back out into the world. They miss the special blessing of fellowship with Him and being instructed by Him during this period of time between their salvation and the time God calls them home. In addition to that, they will lose great rewards that they could have enjoyed for eternity (Malachi 3:16) when Jesus Christ appears again at the catching up or the Rapture. Are you going to miss it? Are you going to miss it for the world? I wouldn't miss it for the world!