

PERFECTED THROUGH SHARING

"Therefore take care of yourselves and guard the whole flock, for you are the one determined by the Holy Spirit to be overseers to shepherd the church of God that he obtained with the blood of his own Son; Feed my sheep ..." (Acts 20:28; John 21: 15-17)

Successful discipleship is discipleship that is perfected through shepherding. In addition to discipleship, the Lord Jesus also instructed His disciples to feed His sheep or God's church (John 21: 15-17). This was also what the apostle Paul longed for in the mission and care of the early church (Acts 20:28). And in his letter to the Romans, the Apostle Paul once said, "I owe both the Greeks and the Gentiles, both the learned and the uneducated" (Romans 1:14). He said so not because he received a gift that he had to repay, but because God had given him what he could not return. He gave Paul a great desire to preach the gospel to those who lived in Rome. Paul has a firm belief in the gospel, because for him the gospel is the power of God that saves every believer and in it the real truth of God is departing from faith and leads to faith, as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith" (Romans 1 : 15-17). This is what has changed his life and has made his heart so that his heart is directed to focus on God's mission for the nations through the task of evangelism, discipleship and pastoral care. The final goal of the Lord's church is not mission, but life focused on the Lord Jesus as our Savior and High Priest. This is not just the shepherding of souls through official worship with liturgies performed on certain days, but the vision goes beyond that. If this age has passed and if one day His innumerable chosen people are assembled before His throne, then the mission of the church will end. Mission is a temporary task but it is very important to prepare His church to one day enter into fellowship with God forever. Therefore, successful discipleship is discipleship that is perfected through shepherding. Discipleship and pastoral care tasks are basically the targets and mission drivers. The task of discipleship and shepherding is the mission goal of the lives of His people, because our goal in the mission is to bring all nations to become sheep of God who know His voice (John 10: 4-5). The Lord Jesus is a good shepherd and who knows His sheep and His sheep know Him (John 10: 14-15). At the end of this age there will be other sheep (harvest of souls) led by God and they will hear His voice and they will also become "one flock with one shepherd" (John 10:16). The ultimate goal of the mission is to gather and unite all the children of God from all His churches in order to glorify God. The mission always begins and ends with the meetings of the saints focused on the Lord through shepherding. If God is not placed as the main target in every believer's life and is not a priority in the pastoral care of every church, then humans will never be served well and God will never be glorified as He should. We all certainly yearn so that the spirit of the shepherding heart of this mission can be even more fiery. Therefore, let the power of the Holy Spirit continue to encourage us to make disciples of all nations and feed them at the end of this age according to His Word. Let us all be true disciples perfected through shepherding. Let's move forward together to fulfill His purpose and purpose. Amen!

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