

BECOMING A STRONGER DISCIPLE OF CHRIST AT THE END OF TIME

“In this way we are strengthened by the words that have been spoken by the prophets. How good it would be for you to pay attention to it, as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the dawn breaks and the morning star shines in your hearts” (2 Peter 1:19)

On August 17, 2021, the Indonesian people will commemorate the 76th anniversary of their independence. If we reflect back on the journey of the Indonesian nation during these 76 years, then we should be grateful to God who has bestowed this great independence on the Indonesian nation even though the challenges and struggles of the nation are also great. So it is in His church life. Although God's people and His church have also faced various challenges and struggles both from within and from without throughout history, but because of God's faithful love His church has continued to grow since 2000 years ago until now. It can happen because of God's grace and because of the obedience of Christ's disciples to His Great Commission throughout the centuries of church history to this day. The commandment given by the Lord Jesus to His disciples before He ascended to heaven in Matthew 28:19-20 is still going on from generation to generation. In 2 Peter 1:16-21 the apostle Peter shared his experience when he and James and John as disciples of Christ were given the opportunity to see the glory of God on the holy mountain. And what the apostle Peter said in 2 Peter 1:19 above is part of the notification to the Lord's congregation about the power and coming of the Lord Jesus as king or the second coming of the Lord Jesus. As eyewitnesses they witnessed how the Lord Jesus received honor and glory from God the Father on a holy mountain (2 Peter 1:16-18) and they were further confirmed by the words that had been delivered by the prophets. Then in verse 19 Peter says, "It would be better if you pay attention to it as if you watch a lamp shining in a dark place until the daybreaks and the morning star shines in your hearts" (verse 19). So, every disciple of Christ is also encouraged to always pay attention to God's Word, because the prophecies in His Word about Christ's coming will also definitely be fulfilled in His time. If Peter and his friends experienced the fulfillment of the prophecy about the glory of Christ so that they were more confirmed by His words, then Christ's disciples in the last days can also be more confirmed by His words if they could see and experience the fulfillment of the signs of the Lord's coming. the second time (Read at Matthew 24:29-30; Luke 21:25-28; Joel 2:30-32; Acts 2:19-21). We are grateful that in these end times there are still Christ's disciples who want to be sanctified in the truth of His Word (John 17:17). When Jesus lived as the Son of Man, some of Jesus' disciples did not believe His Word and they turned away and no longer followed Jesus (John 6:66). We, as God's disciples, who have been freed from sin by the power of Christ's blood, need to work on the salvation that God has given us earnestly (Philippians 2:12-18) and want to pay attention to the fulfillment of His Word in the days leading up to His coming. Lord Jesus, then we will surely be strengthened by His word. In the days leading up to the second coming of the Lord Jesus, let us continue to receive God's grace through discipleship and shepherding according to His will. The life of the early church was so strong and they lived in abundant grace because they were successfully discipled and shepherded by the apostles (Acts 4:33). They can grow in the grace and knowledge of Him, because they continue to be taught the truth of His Word. Because of the power of His Word we can be strengthened even more in these last days. Amen!

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