

## **BECOMING DISCIPLES WHO ARE FILLED CHRIST'S THE GLORY**

*"Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better. We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy"*

(Colossians 1:10-11 NLT)

Colossians 1:10-11 is part of the prayer of Paul and his companions for the Colossians. They prayed, "...that you may be filled with all wisdom and understanding, so that you may know God's will fully..." (verse 9). The Colossians were finally able to receive all wisdom and understanding; they could live worthy and fully pleasing to God; they could bear fruit in every good work and grow in the knowledge of God because they were ready to be disciplined and shepherded. The church in Colosse was finally able to be strengthened with all strength by the power of His glory to endure everything with perseverance and patience. At that time they were facing difficult challenges from false teachers or heretical teachers, but were grateful because in the end they were able to be strengthened by the power of His glory. This actually applies not only to them, but also to all His disciples in all ages. Not only can we be strengthened by the power of His glory, but we also need to pray to be able to learn and do God's will. And the Word of God in the letter 1 Peter 2:15-17 says, *"For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor."*

Therefore, in commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the Proclamation of Indonesian Independence in August 2025, let us also continue to pray for the Indonesian nation and state that is facing national struggles (SARA = Tribe, Religion, Race and Inter-Group), the political and economic situation in this generation, so that they can continue to do good and to be able to silence the narrow-mindedness of those who do not fear God and that they can continue to be strengthened by the power of His glory to endure everything with perseverance and patience. Pray that they can live as free people who do not abuse that freedom to cover up crimes that could damage the unity of the nation. We must also pray that every disciple of Christ in Indonesia and also in Europe can learn to respect everyone, love others, fear God and respect the president/government who is carrying out their responsibilities. We are called not only to be good and successful disciples of God, but also called to be good citizens. And it is God's will that we are also willing to be intercessors for our nation and state and also to intercede for the nation and state where we are currently located.

In their ministry of formation, the apostles Paul and Peter also learned to accompany the people they disciplined and shepherded through prayer. When Paul wrote his letter and prayed for the Colossians, he was imprisoned and living far from Colossae. Yet, Paul continued to pray for them. Likewise, for those of us who are currently far from our homeland (in Germany and the Netherlands), we can still pray for our families and fellow believers who are far away. One of the duties of those who pray is to disciple those who pray. This is what we need in our church. This is also what our nation, Indonesia, needs, because many people in Indonesia and throughout the nations are still blinded by the god of this age. May God use us as His faithful disciples in prayer! Lord Jesus bless, Amen!

*By Silwanus Obadja*