

BECOMING A REAL DISCIPLE OF CHRIST IN THIS AGE

“The Sovereign Lord has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed. The Sovereign Lord has opened my ears; I have not been rebellious, I have not turned away.”
(Isaiah 50:4-5, NIV)

In the month of July-August we need to be built stronger and more fruitful in the task of discipleship and shepherding. The era we are in now is the digital age. Humans in our time have achieved such high progress, in general in the field of social media, that it can prevent humans from interacting with one another and where humans do things for themselves (egocentric). But God's Great Commission still applies to us who are already one with God (Matthew 28:19-20) and want to do His will (John 4:34). And that can only be done by every true disciple of Christ. To become true disciples of Christ we need to be shepherded and taught to do all that God has commanded (Matthew 28:20). Every morning our hearing needs to be sharpened to hear the voice of God. We need to meditate on His Word every day, day and night (Psalm 1:1-3). If we really love God, then we are willing to obey and do all His commandments, because His commandments are not heavy (1 John 5:3). A true disciple is basically a student who is willing to be taught to do everything that God has commanded. The word disciple in Matthew 28:19-20 has to do with the word teach or teaching in the English translation. The Lord Jesus promised to always be with His disciples who were willing to be taught until the end of time. The tongue of a disciple who is from the Lord is a word that can give new encouragement to those who are weary (Isaiah 50:4). This reminds us of what the great Teacher the Lord Jesus said in Matthew 11:28-29, "Come to me, all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart and your souls will find rest." Man who is still in sin or living outside of Christ, his heart is never filled with relief and his soul cannot experience rest. For God so loved man, that He gave His only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who died on the cross, so that everyone who believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). That is the most comforting gift and fills the void of the human soul. As His disciples we also need to be educated by God for our good, even because of His love sometimes He needs to discipline us, His children. What for? For our good and that we may share in His holiness, for without holiness no one will see God (Hebrews 12:14). Hebrews 12:10 says, "For they taught us for a short time according to what they thought was good, but He chastises us for our good, so that we may share in His holiness." So a true disciple of Christ means being His disciple is ready to be processed. At His coming, He will raise up His holy disciples. And in Hebrews 12:5-9, there is advice that we should not take God's teachings lightly and do not despair if we are corrected by Him. God disciplines us because He loves everyone who has been accepted as His child, like a father who truly loves his legitimate children, not "easy children" (illegitimate children). A true disciple of Christ is expected to give new encouragement to those who are still outside of Christ (Isa. 50:4-5). Let's go make all His disciples, Amen!

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