

Christmas Fellowship in Malang, December 27, 2020 (Sunday Morning)

Peace and grace in the love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 1:23

1:23. "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

Christmas means that God is born as a man with the name Immanuel that means God with us.
Why is Jesus born with the name Immanuel?

Genesis 1:26

1:26. Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

God has made man in the image of the Trinity of God, so he was as glorious as God.
The man was placed in the Garden of Eden, so he had dominion over the animal of the air and in the sea as well as on earth.
The man was happy with God.

But unfortunately, the man sinned, so he lost the image and glory of the Trinity of God. He became naked, so he was separated from God and cast out of Eden to enter into the world. He lived in curse, and was not happy anymore.
Even though all men live in the curse, sadness, and separation from God in the world, they do not want to repent, but sin up to the peak like in the age of Noah and Lot.

Luke 17:26-30

17:26. "And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man:

17:27. "They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.

17:28. "Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built;

17:29. "but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all.

17:30. "Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.

The conditions of men in the age of Noah and Lot are described in the book of Luke 17:26-30:

1. Eating-drinking (smoking, getting drunk, and drugs abuse) and marrying-giving in marriage (fornication between man and woman who are not husband and wife, and fornication through sight, mind, and word).
Living in sins up to the peak is the same as being controlled by Satan, namely the spirit of wickedness and uncleanness (the birds of the air).
2. Buying and selling. It means that one is controlled by the spirit of selling-buying or the Antichrist, so he is marked with 666.
The fact found in it is that one worships money, so he becomes greedy and stingy.
Stinginess means that one cannot give for others and God.
Greediness means that one steals the possession of God.
The house of God becomes the market, namely one is active in the ministry, but he only looks for the physical prosperity and entertainment, not God or the true teaching word.
He is in the ordination which is not in line with the true teaching word. He becomes unfaithful as well as leaves the ministry to seek for money.

Being controlled by the spirit of selling-buying is the same as being controlled by the fishes in the sea.
Previously, men controlled the fish in the sea, but now men are controlled by it.
3. Planting and building. It means that one is controlled by false teaching, namely lying spirit, so he is without the true teaching.
He ministers to God just to look great but without the true teaching word or rules.
He may also ministers in the field of Satan, so he is used in the building of the body of Babylon, namely the bride of Satan who is perfect in evil and uncleanness.
It means that men are controlled by the animal on earth.

In the age of Noah, people were punished with floodwaters.

In the age of Lot, people were punished with the fire and brimstone.

They were separated forever from God.

People on the last days who are separated from God are controlled by three beasts, so they appear like the beast. They become the same as the trinity of Satan who will be destroyed in the hell forever.

God does not will if the men He has created according to His image become the beast.

God really has a desire and makes effort, so the men who have been separated from Him even become the same as the beast can return to Him and become as glorious as Him, so the men may return to the Paradise and the New Jerusalem or the heavenly kingdom forever. It is the eternal Immanuel. We are not separated anymore from God.

We must also have a desire and make effort for returning to God. We become one with Him forever. It is the same as the eternal Immanuel.

There are three efforts of God to make Immanuel happen as follows:

1. The **Christmas**, namely God is born as a man with the name Immanuel and Jesus.

Matthew 1:21,23

1:21. "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

1:23. "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

The name of Jesus saves the sinners. He becomes the atonement offering.

1 John 4:10

4:10. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Jesus is born as the only innocent Man, but He must die on the cross as the atonement or sin offerings, so we experience the propitiation for our sins. We are forgiven and set free from sins, so we are saved.

Acts 19:1-7

19:1. And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples

19:2. he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit."

19:3. And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism."

19:4. Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus."

19:5. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

19:6. And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

19:7. Now the men were about twelve in all.

The process of receiving the salvation is as follows:

- a. [Acts 19:4] Believing in Jesus as the only Savior.
- b. Repenting or being dead to sin. It starts from the will of money, eating-drinking, and marrying-giving in marriage. We are set free from the beast.
- c. Water baptism, namely one who has died to sin or repented must be buried in the water with Jesus and come out or rise from water with Him to receive new life or heavenly one, namely life in righteousness.
- d. Holy Spirit baptism or being newly born from the Spirit.
One of the characters of the Spirit is faithfulness. The righteous is surely faithful.

Isaiah 11:5

11:5. Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist.

We become the instrument of righteousness or the servant of God who ministers to Him faithfully and correctly. We experience peace, so all things become easy and light. We can bear the yoke in marriage, church of God, working, and so on.

If we become the servant of God who ministers to God faithfully and correctly, we will experience Immanuel, namely God with us. We will not be separated from Him. We are set free from Satan. We return to the image of the Trinity of God.

2. **The two kinds of the great commission of Jesus.** It is the duty of the priests and kings as follows:

Matthew 28:19-20

28:19. *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*

28:20. *"teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*

- a. [Matthew 28:19] The revival of Holy Spirit at the early rain. It is the revival in gospel word or Good News to bring the sinners to Jesus, so they believe in Him. They enter into water and Holy Spirit baptism, so they are saved. It is the same as adding the quantity of the body of Christ.
- b. [Matthew 28:20] The revival of Holy Spirit at the latter rain. It is the revival in the true teaching word of Bride Tidings. The true teaching word that is sharper than any two-edged sword purifies the saved people up to perfection like Jesus. It is the same as adding the quality of the body of Christ.

We must become the priests and kings or the servants of God who are active in the revival of Holy Spirit at the early rain and latter rain, so we experience Immanuel.

It is the same as being active in the building of the perfect body of Christ, starting from ourselves, marriage, shepherding, inter-shepherding, until the Israelites and Gentiles become one perfect body of Christ.

First, we can receive the Gospel word. We are firm in righteousness, faithfulness, and holiness. We testify about the Good News or Gospel word to bring the sinners to believe in God.

Further, we testify about the Bride Tidings to bring the saved people into the building of the perfect body of Christ. We minister faithfully and correctly according to the ministry that God gives to us

Matthew 8:18-20

8:18. *And when Jesus saw great multitudes about Him, He gave a command to depart to the other side.*

8:19. *Then a certain scribe came and said to Him, "Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go."*

8:20. *And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."*

It is the same as departing to the other side. It needs sacrifices.

We must sacrifice anything, namely time, power, mind, money, and prestige. Only one thing that we may not sacrifice, namely the true teaching word or Jesus, because it is the Head.

Do not be afraid or doubtful! If we follow God's order and minister to Him according to the true teaching word, He will never lie to us. God is with us, and who can be against us?

Romans 8:31-32

8:31. *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?*

8:32. *He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?*

He has surrendered His only Son, so He is able to give us all things from now up to eternal life.

3. **Jesus must come a second time on the glorious clouds as the King to lift us up, so we experience Immanuel forever.**

Revelation 22:20-21

22:20. *He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!*

22:21. *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen."*

"Surely I am coming quickly" means that God is ready to come a second time.

"Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!" means that the church of God is ready to greet Jesus when He comes a second time on the glorious clouds.

Our preparation is living in God's mercy. Do not step out from God's mercy!

Outside the mercy, all things will die or become in vain.

What is the meaning of living in the mercy?

1 Peter 2:19

2:19. *For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully.*

We must willingly suffer in flesh because of the will of God. It is the same as bearing the cross with Jesus or experiencing the sprinkle of blood with Jesus.

Why do we have to experience the sprinkle of blood? There is the Spirit of glory or the greatest miracle behind the sprinkle of blood.

The glory of God is able to change us from fleshly men to spiritual ones like Jesus. It starts from the renewal of heart, namely being strong and of good courage.

Psalm 27:14

27:14. Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!

Matthew 28:17

28:17. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted.

Being strong and of good courage means that we are not doubtful, disappointed or desperate and do not leave God and marriage regardless of anything that happens.

Matthew 28:16

28:16. Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them.

Being obedient until the flesh does not speak anymore is our meeting point with Jesus to do all the great commissions.

Matthew 28:17

28:17. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted.

We totally trust and commit ourselves to Jesus. We place Him as the Head.

The examples are as follows:

- a. Abraham (the father).

Romans 4:17-21

4:17. (as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations") in the presence of Him whom he believed--God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did;

4:18. who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your descendants be."

4:19. And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb.

4:20. He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God,

4:21. and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.

Abraham does not waver at the promise of God or the true teaching word although he faces impossibility.

He is fully convinced that what He has promised He is also able to perform in His time.

As a result, Abraham receives the power to create something that does not exist yet. The impossible thing becomes possible.

- b. A woman who has a flow of blood for twelve years (the woman or mother or widow).

Mark 5:25-29

5:25. Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years,

5:26. and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse.

5:27. When she heard about Jesus, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment.

5:28. For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well."

5:29. Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction.

She does not hope others, but God's power although she faces decay, ruin, the destruction in marriage and children, increasing problem, up to the impossibility.

As a result, she is healed.

Marriage and the children are restored. The decay is changed into fragrance. The impossible thing becomes possible.

c. The younger people.

1 Peter 5:5-6

5:5. Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

5:6. Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

The younger people are worthless, incapable, failed as well as in falling, *et cetera*.

Do not doubt to return to the true shepherding! We submit, worship, and stretch out our hands to God.

As a result, God will stretch out His hands to exalt us in due time.

All things become beautiful and successful in His time.

We are used by God for the glory of His name.

All things are finished by God in His time.

We are exalted to the glorious clouds. It means that we are purified and changed up to perfection to greet His second coming on the glorious clouds. It is Immanuel forever. We return to the Paradise and the New Jerusalem forever.

God blesses us.