

General Service in Malang, August 07, 2011 (Sunday Morning)

Matthew 26:17-19

26:17. Now on the first day of the Feast of the Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying to Him, "Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?"

26:18 And He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, "My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at your house with My disciples.'"

26:19 So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover.

The preparation of the Passover.

The Feast of the Unleavened Bread equals to the Passover, that is our deliverance from sins by repenting and being newly born (water baptism and Holy Spirit baptism).

The Passover will peak on the marriage supper of the Lamb of God.

Revelation 19:9

19:9 Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."

The marriage supper of the Lamb of God is our deliverance from sins and the world to meet Jesus on the glorious clouds on Jesus' second coming.

Jesus will come as Heavenly Bridegroom (the Head) to meet us as His bride (His body) and unite forever, no longer being separated.

Afterwards, we will enter A Thousand Years Kingdom of Peace, until entering the New Jerusalem, the eternal Kingdom of Heaven.

Whoever (including God's servant, pastor, etc.) keeps or agrees or supports sins will not be able to enter the marriage supper of the Lamb of God. He cannot be set free from the world, and will be left on Jesus' second coming, will be perished forever.

God is good and righteous.

Who keeps in sins will be judged and perished with the world.

The Passover is related with "My time is at hand". It means as follows:

- In **Matthew 26**: the time of Jesus' death as the Lamb of God was drawing near. He died on the cross, but he raised and lifted up to the Heaven.
- For us now: **Our time to be set free from sins is coming. We must be set free from sins immediately.**
Do not postpone it!
Sometime there will be no more chance to be set free from sins. The sins will become permanent and we will be perished.
- In the last days: **the time of Jesus' coming as the King of kings and Heavenly bridegroom is drawing near.**

Revelation 22:20

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

Jesus is ready to come for the second time in glory as King of kings and Heavenly Bridegroom.

Likewise, the answer and readiness of God's church is "Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!".

What do we have to prepare to be able to welcome Jesus' second coming?

Living in God's grace and favor.

Revelation 22:21

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

I Peter 2:19

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

The practice of living in God's grace and favor is willingness to suffer in God's will. It equals to living in the cross of God.

This is the former grace.

If in suffering we can feel God's grace, we will feel it more and need not to be taught in blessed condition.

Actually, we are not worthy to suffer or bear the cross.

Acts5:41

5:41 So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.

The apostles who are Israelites are actually not worthy to suffer with Jesus.

Moreover we, as the Gentiles, are not worthy to enter the Heaven, not worthy to suffer because of God.

If we are permitted to suffer because of God's will, it is because we are "counted worthy".

Therefore, we should not grumble!

We receive suffering with joy because of God.

Acts14:22

14:22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."

To be able to enter the Heaven, we must experience many tribulations.

Faith to Jesus must be added with suffering because of Jesus.

Faith without tribulation is empty faith, dead faith.

Philippians1:29

1:29 For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,

II Timothy3:12

3:12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

Now, we have to suffer because of ministering God in the middle of our bustle in the world.

If we do not want to suffer to enter the ministry, how can we enter the Heaven?

Sometime, we will not be only confronted with suffering, but also with persecution.

If we do not want to suffer, how will we face persecution?

To become priests and kings, we must experience flesh suffering and persecution.

Do not make bustle as a reason to reject the call to serve God!

Throughout the human's life will always be marked with bustle.

Jesus called the apostles during their bustle, and God is able to help us.

Why does God permit us to experience suffering?

1. I Peter4:1-2

4:1. Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,

4:2 that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

a. **Such that we can stop doing sins and come back to God (repentance).**

b. **Such that we can live for the will of God. It equals to being obedient to the Word of God.**

We must repent first, and then we can obey the Word of God.

If we obey the Word, there is God's glory within the Word, and we will experience God's glory.

Repentance and obedience are suffering. But, there is God's glory behind.

Exodus16:10

16:10 Now it came to pass, as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud.

Whatever our suffering is, let us repent and come back to the Word (being obedient) whatever the risks, and although it contradicts with our flesh desire.

Ezekiel 1:28

1:28 Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD.

We will experience the rainbow of the glory of the Lord.

Exodus16:11-12

16:11 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

16:12 "I have heard the complaints of the children of Israel. Speak to them, saying, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. And you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'"

The result is God is able to care us in the middle of difficulties or world crisis.

Having diploma, business, etc., are only tools. We live from God's glory.

If we repent and obey the Word, we live from the rainbow of God's grace.

If we reject the Word, we live from antichrist.

2. **I Peter4:12-14**

4:12. Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you;

4:13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

4:14 If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.

Why does God let us experience **suffering without sins spiritually**, for example suffering because of fasting, suffering because of ministering God, being slandered because of God's name (the true teaching Word)?

Such that we receive the Spirit of glory.

The results are as follows:

- a. The rainbow of God's glory gives us extra power such that we can endure.

Do not fall!

Enduring means we do not grumble, not being disappointed or desperate, but we can rejoice in suffering.

Everybody, including lives who are still outside God, is able to rejoice in the middle of blessings.

But not all God's children are able to rejoice in suffering.

Only God's children who have the spirit of glory are able to rejoice in the middle of suffering.

If we look at the flesh, we have no power.

But if there is the spirit of glory, we will endure even rejoice in suffering.

- b. The spirit of glory renews our life.

We are renewed from flesh men (the clay pot) to become spiritual men (the golden pot which cannot be destroyed).

What things must be renewed?

I Peter4:15

4:15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters.

- **Murderer** = living in hatred up to hatred without reasons.

All dislike feelings and hatred must be reconciled!

- **Thief** = being stingy and greedy.

Being stingy= cannot give for God's works and the others who need.

We have to pay attention the rights of the others who need.

Being greedy= taking the others' belonging.

Especially we have to pay attention to the Lord's. Do not steal the tenth and special offerings!

- **A busybody in other people's matters**= mockers of the true teaching Word, especially the tidings about Jesus' second coming (Bride Tidings).

Jude1:18

1:18 how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts.

They mock the true teaching Word because of their own interest, flesh and carnal matters.

Numbers 11:4-6

11:4. Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so the children of Israel also wept again and said: "Who will give us meat to eat?"

11:5 We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic;

11:6 but now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!"

The people who mock the Word = the mixed multitude (in Indonesian old translation, it is mentioned as the people who make a chaos).

The cause is chasing flesh matters which are contradicted with the Word of God.

Jude 1:19

1:19 These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.

A busybody in other people's matters = a person who causes divisions = dividing the body of Christ with gossips whose truth cannot be accounted.

Be watchful with our words through social media, internet, etc.!

There will be guilt for our bloodshed which cannot be paid with anything.

Otherwise, let us be used by God to take part in the ministry of reconciliation. It equals to becoming a conciliator.

The priests stand between God and the congregation to take part in the ministry of reconciliation, to reconcile the congregation with God and the others.

If a murderer, a thief, and a busybody in other people's matters are thrown away, we can be used in the revival of building perfect body of Christ.

3. John 11:4-5, 32, 39-40

11:4 When Jesus heard that, He said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

11:5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.

11:32 Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."

11:39 Jesus said, "Take away the stone."

Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days."

11:40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?"

God let us experience **suffering without sins physically**, for example illness, financial crisis, gloomy future, etc.

Why?

Such that we can fall down at Jesus' feet.

Many people in this world mourn and blame each other in suffering, but God only wants us to fall down at His feet.

The practice are as follows:

- a. Worshipping God, loving God more than everything.
- b. Confessing that we are only the clay which has no worthiness (doing many sins and faults) and has no power.
- c. Only believing and fully surrendering ourselves to God = the tested faith.

Thus, we will see the rainbow of God's glory (God's grace).

The result is Lazarus, who has died for four days and been rotten, was raised by God's glorious power.

- a. Physical miracle is making possible the impossible things.
The determinant of there will be helps and miracles or not is not medicines or another carnal helps, but God's grace.
- b. Spiritual miracle is we will be renewed until having the same glory as Jesus and we will arrive in God's throne surrounded by a rainbow.

Revelation 4:3

4:3 And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.

God blesses us.