

General Service in Malang, August 11, 2024 (Sunday Morning)

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

(The continuation of the theme of the Fellowship Service in Pekanbaru)

The theme is the great famine that will happen all over the world.

Acts 11:28

11:28 Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar.

There are two kinds of great famine as follows:

1. Physical famine that causes the sufferings up to the physical death.
2. Spiritual famine.

Amos 8:11

8:11 "Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord GOD, "That I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine of bread, Nor a thirst for water, But of hearing the words of the LORD."

It refers to the famine of hearing the Word of God.

The signs of the spiritual famine are as follows:

1. The spirituality is hungry, thirsty, or dissatisfied until murmuring, grumbling, and blaming at one another like the brothers of Joseph who looked at one another.
2. Fainting or being lukewarm, namely not being faithful and fervent in spirit in the service and ministry to God.
3. Falling and never rising anymore. It means falling in sins up to the peak, namely the sins concerning eating-drinking and marrying-being given in marriage. One enjoys committing sins and cannot repent because there is no preaching of the Word anymore.

Amos 8:12

8:12 They shall wander from sea to sea, And from north to east; They shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the LORD, But shall not find it.

Use the time from now on to go anywhere to preach or testify and look for the Word!

Revelation 1:3

1:3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

Revelation 22:7

22:7 "Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

Therefore, we must use this short time to read the Bible and hear the Word because someday there will be no more opportunity for reading and hearing the Word. At that time, sinful men cannot repent like Satan.

Now is the time to read and hear the Word, so we can still be resurrected from sins and helped and we do not perish, but reach the eternal life.

Why does the spiritual famine happen?

Amos 8:5

8:5 Saying: "When will the New Moon be past, That we may sell grain? And the Sabbath, That we may trade wheat? Making the ephah small and the shekel large, Falsifying the scales by deceit,

It happens because of **having the false scales, namely making the shekel (the scale for money) large and the ephah (the scale for wheat) little**. The facts found in it are as follows:

- The wrong life conduct, namely prioritizing or relying on the physical things until belittling and sacrificing the spiritual things. For example, Esau left the tents for hunting the meat. He could get the physical things, but could not enjoy them, namely not

being satisfied, but murmuring, grumbling, until losing the salvation.

- The service and ministry only prioritize the prosperity and physical entertainment, not the preaching of the Word or sanctification.

2 Timothy 3:1-5

3:1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:

3:2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

3:3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,

3:4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

3:5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

They serve and minister to God, but reject the power, namely the sword of the Word and the cross until there are no life renewal and satisfaction. They keep the eighteen characteristics of the flesh and get the stamp of triple six and become the same as the Antichrist that will be destroyed.

We must have the just scale, namely being balanced in doing the physical things and the spiritual ones. Moreover, we must make the ephah (wheat) large and the shekel (money) little. It means that we must prioritize the spiritual things (the Word) more than the physical ones, so we do not enter the spiritual famine, but our life is preserved in abundance physically and spiritually until entering the eternal life.

Acts 20:7-12

20:7 Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.

20:8 There were many lamps in the upper room where they were gathered together.

20:9 And in a window sat a certain young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep. He was overcome by sleep; and as Paul continued speaking, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead.

20:10 But Paul went down, fell on him, and embracing him said, "Do not trouble yourselves, for his life is in him."

20:11 Now when he had come up, had broken bread and eaten, and talked a long while, even till daybreak, he departed.

20:12 And they brought the young man in alive, and they were not a little comforted.

The example of one who has the false balance is Eutychus, a young man. He was at the third floor. It means that he had the high level of spirituality and physical success. Nevertheless, his position was wrong.

Paul, the apostle, preached the Word until midnight and the dawn.

Matthew 25:6

25:6 "And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!'"

It refers to the true teaching Word or the Bride Tidings. The dawn refers to the second coming of Jesus.

[verse 12] The Bride Tidings comforts us or gives us extra power in facing all things; even we are comforted in facing the death of one whom we love. We keep strong and of good courage. We do not get disappointed or hopeless and leave God, but keep on giving thanks, following, and ministering to God.

The Bride Tidings sanctifies us up to the perfection or we have no flaw. It also revives our spirituality so that we keep watchful in the spiritual revival until being able to welcome Jesus' second coming on the glorious clouds. We are not left behind.

Eutychus had the wrong attitude in hearing the Bride Tidings, namely sitting in a window or high place, not on the grass or ground. It means hearing the Bride Tidings, but the heart is doubtful. It means as follows:

- Belittling or not appreciating the Bride Tidings. One also likes comparing it with the other teachings.
- Making the physical things greater or prioritizing them more than the Bride Tidings until there is no obedience.
- Not being firm in the Shepherding Word or not sitting on the grass because of being influenced by the wind from outside, namely false teachings, gossips, and the world with all of its influences.

Sitting in the window when hearing the Word is the same as throwing away the beautiful future life or being withered before blooming. When a servant of God hears the Word, but sits in the window (the heart is arrogant until not appreciating the Word), he is throwing away the beautiful time of ministry.

Sitting in the window, the physical and spiritual life will decrease until falling. The signs are as follows:

- Being sleepy. It means the weak faith, getting bored in hearing the Word, praying, and serving, and ministering to God, or not being fervent in spirit in doing the spiritual things.
- Sleeping. It means being unactive and unfaithful until not being able to serve and ministering to God.
- Falling from the third floor. It means falling in sins up to the peak.
- Being dead. The physical life dies or there is no future life. The spirituality dies or one enjoys sins up to the peak until having the second death and perishing forever in the hell.

Acts20:10

20:10 But Paul went down, fell on him, and embracing himsaid, "Do not trouble yourselves, for his life is in him."

Paul the apostle that refers to a pastor made effort to be humble for embracing Eutychus.

2 Thessalonians2:15

2:15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.

By preaching the true teaching Word in the anointing of Holy Spirit, the whole weight of the Word that has been done is ingrained to become the experience of life of a pastor.

Be careful! Eutychus heard the teachings that were spoken by Paul, but he fell until he died. Thus, do not be arrogant when we have the first opportunity to hear the Word directly. Both the preaching of the Word through the writing or words spoken by the preacher have the same power as long as it is in the anointing of Holy Spirit.

Acts5:15-16

5:15 so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them.

5:16 Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

The shadow refers to the preaching of the Word through the writing or internet. We enjoy the crumbs of the Word like a dog licking the crumbs. A Word of God is able to help us that we are always in the embrace of God's hands.

The congregation must seriously hear and obey the Word or stretch out the hands to God until the spirituality increases to the right position, namely sitting on the grass or being firm in the Shepherding Word. Do not sit in the window or get doubtful! Moreover, we can lie down or enjoy the Shepherding Word.

As a result, God stretches out His merciful hands for embracing us. Eutychus means being lucky. In the true shepherding, we are lucky, namely being resurrected although we had already been dead.

The merciful hands of God are able to preserve our life in the midst of difficulties or impossibilities in the world and the sins up to the peak. We live in righteousness and holiness. We are equipped with the ministry and used in the edification of Christ's body.

Impossibilities can be made possible. All impossible things can be solved. We have the beautiful successful future life. How bad the destruction in our life, we can be restored and helped as long as we are still able to hear the Shepherding Word.

God blesses you.