

General Service in Malang, August 17, 2014 (Sunday Morning)

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

Revelation 1:17-18

1:17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.

1:18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

John the Apostle was exiled to Patmos Island to suffer in the flesh, not because of sinning but the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ, so he could fall at His feet. Falling at Jesus' feet means worshiping with a contrite heart and worshiping until the flesh does not sound anymore, fully surrendering to God.

As a result, Jesus laid His right hand on John the Apostle, and he experienced three things as follows.

1. "Do not be afraid", meaning the renewal of the feeling so there is no more fear but only confidence toward God.
2. "I am the First and the Last", meaning receiving the love of God that increases from the first love to the perfect love.
3. "I am He who lives".

ad. 3. I am He who lives.

It equals to experiencing victory power over the death.

Jesus has won over the death so He holds the key of Hades to close the door of it. Thus, we will not be destroyed. Altogether, He gives us victory power over the death. We can win over the death together with Him.

The proofs that we win over the death are as follows.

1. Jesus has died and been raised to win over the death, to forgive our sins and justify us.

Romans 4:25

4:25 who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.

The proof that we win over the death is we have to die to sin, repent, and live in righteousness.

The death and resurrection experiences together with Jesus are started with water baptism.

Be careful because there is only one true water baptism and there are many wrong ones. It is as there is only one ark of Noah that saved men while the other arks did not save.

Romans 6:1-4

6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?

6:2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

6:3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

6:4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Entering the true water baptism is as entering the ark of Noah. It is the mercy from God so we can be saved and not be destroyed by death.

If we reject the true water baptism, it equals to persisting on sins and being as a dead person who does not want to be buried. Thus, he will decay and be destroyed forever in Hades.

The true water baptism is according to the Bible. We are also baptized as Jesus was.

The requirement of the true water baptism is we must die to sin and repent. The process of repentance is started from hearing solemnly the Word of God that is anointed by Holy Spirit. Thus, we can understand, believe, and have faith to the Word. When our heart believes, our mouth will confess, that is confessing our sins to God and the others. If we are forgiven, we must not repeat the sins anymore.

The execution of the true water baptism is one who has repented and died to sins is buried in water together with Jesus. Afterwards, he is raised together with Him and receives new life or Heavenly life.

The new life is as the life of a newborn babes.

1 Peter 2:1-2

2:1 Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking,

2:2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,

The signs are as follows.

- Laying aside five main sins as follows.
 - a. Malice.
The root of evil is the love of money that makes one be stingy and greedy.
 - b. Deceit, including lies.
 - c. Hypocrisy.
 - d. Envy.
 - e. Evil speaking, disfiguring the others, saying right the wrong or saying wrong the right.

We lay aside these five sins. They are pulled out to the root so we do not sin anymore but live in righteousness.

- The feeling is right, that is only longing and enjoying the pure and spiritual milk, that is the pure (right) and spiritual shepherding Word. We are being well and right shepherded.
The true shepherding Word is the Word whose secret is revealed by God through a pastor, through a verse explains the other verses in the Bible.
The spiritual shepherding Word is in the anointing of Holy Spirit. It is preached faithfully, repetitively, and orderly by a pastor.

Through the pure and spiritual shepherding Word, we experience spiritual growth in quantity and quality, towards righteousness, holiness, and perfection.

Psalm 5:12

5:12 For You, O Lord, will bless the righteous; With favor You will surround him as with a shield.

A righteous person with right feeling will be surrounded with the blessing and favor of God, so he is always cared directly by God.

2. Jesus was dead and lives. He wins over the death to set us free from the captive of death and to give us ministry.

Ephesians 4:8-12

4:8 Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men."

4:9 (Now this, "He ascended" what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?

4:10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

4:11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

4:12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

The proof of winning over the death is being active in the ministry of the building of the body of Christ, according to the ministry from God.

If we do not active in the ministry of the building of the body of Christ, we will enter the building of Babylon.

If we are active in the ministry of the building of the Body of Christ, sometime we will become the perfect body of Christ or the Heavenly bride who is ready to welcome His second coming on the glorious clouds. It is started from within the marriage, shepherding, inter-shepherding, until the perfect body of Christ.

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."

We will welcome His second coming of the glorious clouds and enter the marriage supper of the Lamb of God. It is continued with entering the future Paradise or the kingdom of peace a thousand years, as written in Revelation 20. It is continued with entering the New Jerusalem or the eternal Kingdom of Heaven, as written in Revelation 21-22.

The direction of the revival of the body of Christ is the New Jerusalem. It equals to the revival of Holy Spirit in the last rain.

Matthew 21:1-2

21:1 Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples,

21:2 saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me."

The revival of Holy Spirit in the last rain is illustrated as the last journey of Jesus to Jerusalem. The target is donkey, that refers to the Gentile.

It is the mercy of God if the Gentile is used in the revival of Holy Spirit in the last rain.

Genesis 49:11

49:11 Binding his donkey to the vine, And his donkey's colt to the choice vine, He washed his garments in wine, And his clothes in the blood of grapes.

The donkey and her colt must be bound to the true vine, that is one true teaching Word.

If we have been shepherded to the true vine, we will get prime priority to be sanctified, especially from the Gentile's character as follows.

- The character of the dog and swine.

The character of the dog refers to bad and unrighteous words. We must be sanctified so we can say good and right words, or the words that become blessing and strengthen the others.

The character of the swine refers to the deeds that do sins up to the peak of sins, that is sins concerning eating-drinking (smoking, getting drunk, consuming drugs) and marrying-being given in a marriage (sexuality sin with all its variety through deeds, words, thoughts, *et cetera*; wrong marriage, mix marriage, marrying-divorcing, homosexuality, lesbianism).

- Being egoistic or prioritizing self-interest.

Matthew 21:2-3

21:2 saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me.

21:3 And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, "The Lord has need of them," and immediately he will send them."

God gives us opportunity to sacrifice our money, time, *et cetera*, so we can be sanctified from egoistic character.

Philippians 2:21

2:21 For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus.

We do not prioritize ourselves anymore, but we prioritize the importance of Christ and the others who are in need.

James 3:14-16

3:14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth.

3:15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic.

3:16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.

If there is self-interest, there will be lies and opposition to righteousness.

The consequences are as follows.

- a. It will cause confusion and separation in the body of Christ.
- b. Evil and unclean deeds that lead to Babylon.

Do not be afraid. Everything that we have sacrificed for the body of Christ will not be lost. God will replace them with physical and spiritual blessings.

- Worry about daily life and future.

Matthew 21:7-8

21:7 They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them.

21:8 And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

If we are sanctified from worry, we will be ridden by Jesus and used in the revival of the building of the body of Christ.

The revival of Holy Spirit in the last rain is the revival in faith, that is being able to give (time, energy, thought, *et cetera*). Everything must be sacrificed for the revival of the building of the body of Christ. Only one thing that must not be sacrificed, that is the true teaching Word. The peak is we can sacrifice our whole life to be ridden by Jesus. We can believe and fully entrust our life to Him.

John 7:5-6

7:5 For even His brothers did not believe in Him.

7:6 Then Jesus said to them, *“My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready.*

If God has not answered our prayer yet, let us be patient in waiting His time. He is still working in our life. He waits until we believe and fully entrust our life to Him.

Romans 4:19-21

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 did not doubt the promise of God and the true teaching Word. He did not doubt His power, but kept being strong and of good courage although he saw impossibilities. Abraham believed and fully entrusted his life to God. He believed that God is able to fulfill His promise.

James 5:10-11

5:10 *My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience.*

5:11 *Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.*

Job endured and persevered in waiting the promise of God.

Daniel 3:16-18,25

3:16 *Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter.*

3:17 *If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king.*

3:18 *But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.”*

3:25 *“Look!” he answered, “I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.”*

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego kept believing and hoping in God, kept worshiping Him although they must be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. But God made miracle. They are lifted up and made successful. It is until we are lifted up to the glorious clouds on His second coming.

God blesses us.