

General Service in Malang, December 05, 2021 (Sunday Morning)

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

Revelation 14:6-13 is about the proclamations of punishment and judgment.

Verse 10-11 is about the peak of punishment in the hell forever.

Revelation 14:10-11

14:10. "he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

14:11. "And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."

God tells us before the punishment comes, so we are not punished. God gives the way out and the safe place, so we are not destroyed. That is why the time of hearing the Word is the decisive time for our life now up to the afterlife. We ask the anointing of Holy Spirit to help us.

Who does not experience God's punishment?

1. Verse 12, namely the servant of God who experiences the spiritual increase of faith, hope, and love. It is the same as the increase of righteousness, holiness, and perfection.
2. Verse 13, namely those who die in the Lord.

ad. 2. Those who die in the Lord

Revelation 14:13

14:13. Then I heard a voice from heavensaying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'""Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."

There are three witnesses who say: *Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord*. Two witnesses are enough, but three witnesses are perfect, so we do not doubt anymore. The three witnesses are the Father God ('a voice from heaven'), the Son of God (Jesus), and Holy Spirit God ('the Spirit').

Not all of the dead are blessed, but only those who die in the Lord. They will not experience the punishment, but be blessed with God forever.

The way they die is not written; even Jesus dies on the cross as a cursed Man. It means that we do not need to judge one another. On the contrary, those who die not in the Lord will suffer from now up to the everlasting punishment.

Who are the people who die in the Lord?

1. Those who live in Jesus.
2. Those who experience the death experience with Jesus. It is the same as willingly suffering in the flesh with Jesus, suffering without the sin, or bearing the cross.
3. Those who experience the martyrdom.

God allows us to bear the cross, so we receive and live in His mercy, because there is His mercy behind the cross.

1 Peter 2:19

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

Suffering because of sin is the chastisement. We must confess our sin to God and others, so it becomes suffering without the sin, and we receive His mercy.

Titus 2:11

2:11. For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,

1 Peter 5:10

5:10. But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.

The grace of God saves the sinners up to perfection, so they do not experience God's punishment in the hell but receive the eternal life in heaven to minister and worship Him day and night.

There are two kinds of the dead as follows:

1. Those who die in God as follows:

- Those who live in Jesus, not sin.
- Those who experience the death experience with Jesus or live in the grace of Jesus.
- Those who are tormented and killed because of Jesus or experience the martyrdom, and those who are left in the age of the Antichrist but keep on worshipping Jesus.

Revelation 20:4,6

20:4. And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

20:6. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

They have been blessed in the world, moreover when they die because of Jesus' name.

Taking a rest means sleeping in the merciful hand of God's. They are set free from suffering and tears. They will be risen in the body of glory when Jesus comes a second time, so they can enter the One-Thousand-Year Kingdom of Peace and eternal kingdom of heaven where they worship God day and night. It is the first resurrection. They do not experience the second death in the hell.

2. Those who die not in Jesus or God's mercy as follows:

- Those who reject Jesus. They do not believe in Jesus. They reject the Gospel, namely the good news and Bride Tidings.
- Those who live in the sin, starting from lie up to the peak of sins, namely sin of eating-drinking and marrying-giving in marriage.
- Those who worship the Antichrist and receive the mark of 666.

Revelation 20:5

20:5. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

They suffer since in the world. For example, a woman of Samaritan had married five times, but she was not happy; even she was thirsty (did not experience satisfaction). They will experience the eternal separation in the hell. They are not risen in the age of a thousand years. They will be risen after the thousand years are finished to be destroyed in the hell forever. It is the second death.

That is why we must keep bearing the cross and living in the grace of God. Do not go back from the cross or suffering without sin! We will not be destroyed, but receive the eternal life. We can pray to get the lengthening of our life from God, but the important is that we live in the grace of God. God works in His mercy to save men from era to era.

The example and fact of living in the grace of God from era to era are as follows:

1. The era of God the Father, which is counted from Adam to Abraham (about two thousand years), is represented by **Noah**. The beginning of the Bible is started with the grace to save the sinners.

Genesis 6:5-9

6:5. Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

6:6. And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

6:7. So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them."

6:8. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

6:9. This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.

In the time of Noah, men had wicked and unclean hearts. They tended to sin, so they experienced God's punishment. But Noah lived in the grace of God. He had the obedient heart, so he could enter Noah's ark, and be set free from God's punishment.

1 Peter 3:19-21

3:19. by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison,
 3:20. who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.
 3:21. There is also an antitype which now saves us--baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

The last days will be the same as the age of Noah, namely men live in sins, so they experience God's punishment. There are many people who are imprisoned by disobedient spirit, but few people can receive God's mercy and enter the true water baptism. The true water baptism is that one who has believed in Jesus and died to sin must be buried in the water to receive a good conscience and obedient heart.

The result of the true water baptism is that we are set free from the sins including the ones of Babylon. The facts found in it are as follows:

- Living in righteousness. It starts from confessing and forgiving one another, so the blood of Jesus washes all of our sins. We can become the righteous, and our prayer is God's delight.
- Being perfect, namely honesty and sincerity.

Genesis 6:9

6:9. This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.

Proverbs 15:8

15:8. The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, But the prayer of the upright is His delight.

We walk with God. It means that we minister and worship God faithfully and fervently. We also can give and visit others who are in need. The prayer and alms are like stretching out our hands to God. We become the house of prayer, so we will not be punished by God. In the past time, Noah (the Israelites) became the house of prayer. Now, we, the Gentiles can become the house of prayer, too. The example is Cornelius.

Acts 10:1-4

10:1. There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment,
 10:2. a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always.
 10:3. About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, "Cornelius!"
 10:4. And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, "What is it, lord?" So he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God.

If there are prayer and alms, we will become a memorial before God. God protects and takes care of us in the midst of the big crisis in the world.
 Physically, God provides clothing, food, and house.
 Spiritually, we are not influenced by the sin. We do not do the sin of Babylon. All of our heart, sight, deed, and marriage are kept by God in righteousness.

2. The era of the Son of God, which is counted from Abraham to the first Jesus' coming (about two thousand years), is represented by **Mary**.

Luke 1:30-31,34,37-38

1:30. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.
 1:31. "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS.
 1:34. Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"
 1:37. "For with God nothing will be impossible."
 1:38. Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Mary was obedient to conceive in her womb and bring forth Jesus, although she did not know a man. Mary bore the risk to be stoned because she was accused of committing adultery and conceiving in her womb without a husband. Mary also bore the risk that she would lose her future. But, with God nothing will be impossible. The results are as follows:

- We are used by God. In the past time, Mary (the Israelites) was used in the revival of Holy Spirit at the first rain or the one of gospel.
- 1 Peter 2:5-10**

2:5. you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

2:6. Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame."

2:7. Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, "The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone,"

2:8. and "A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense." They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.

2:9. But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

2:10. who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

Now, we, the Gentiles are also used in the revival of Holy Spirit in the last rain or the one in the true teaching Word. How great the Gentiles are, they are just hard stone, namely people who are controlled by Satan as well as live in disobedience. It is the same as the two demon-possessed men in the country of the Gergesenes, a woman of Canaan and her daughter, a woman of Samaritan who did the divorce-remarrying even living together with man without marriage. It is the same as having the epilepsy.

But a part of the Israelites has rejected Jesus by crucifying Him, so the Gentiles receive God's mercy. The Gentiles come to Jesus, the living stones, so the hard stone becomes the living stone, namely the priest and king. It means that we are purified to be used by God to become His witness and minister the building of the perfect body of Christ.

- We receive the power of God to take away all of impossibilities [Luke 1:37]. We maybe live with many questions about our future, including others' statements that weaken us. But, in the obedience and mercy, the power of God will take away all of impossibilities.

3. The era of God the Holy Spirit, which is counted from the first Jesus' coming up to the second Jesus' coming (about two thousand years), is represented by **the Israelites and Gentiles**.

The Bible is ended by God's mercy. Do not go out from God's mercy!

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."

Romans 13:11-12

13:11. And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.

13:12. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.

'our salvation is nearer than when we first believed' means that the full salvation or perfectness when Jesus comes a second time is getting nearer. We must we do? We must experience the atmosphere of the revival, namely we must cast off the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light. What is the armor of light?

- The light of the Son of God, namely the Word of God. It refers to the perseverance in committing Bible Study Service and Holy Communion. We experience the redemption or freedom from sin until we receive the light of the moon under the bride's feet.
- The light of Holy Spirit God, namely the anointing and gift of Holy Spirit. It refers to the perseverance in committing General Service. We can receive a garland of twelve stars.
- The light of God the Father, namely God's love. It refers to the perseverance in committing Prayer service. We receive the clothes of the sun.

The sheepfold is the place where we can always experience the revival until we truly become the light of the world and receive the two wings of a great eagle. The two wings of a great eagle will evacuate us to the wilderness, far from the eyes of the Antichrist. We are taken care of by the Word and Holy Communion at the wilderness. We are saved from the Antichrist, and we wait for Jesus' second coming.

Revelation 12:1,14

12:1. Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head

a garland of twelve stars.

12:14. But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

While the world becomes dark, we must experience the renewal of life from the hard heart to the tender one. The fact found in it is being strong and of good courage. It means that we are not anxious, disappointed, and desperate. We do not go back even a step no matter the thing that is happening to us.

Matthew 24:29,32

24:29. "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

24:32. "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near.

Psalm 62:5-8

62:5. My soul, wait silently for God alone, For my expectation is from Him.

62:6. He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be moved.

62:7. In God is my salvation and my glory; The rock of my strength, And my refuge, is in God.

62:8. Trust in Him at all times, you people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Selah

We trust and cry to God. We stretch out our hand to God, so the physical miracle happens. God is able to help whatever we need. The spiritual miracle also happens. We are changed to become one perfect body of Christ. We greet Jesus when He comes a second coming on the glorious clouds until we enter the One-Thousand-Year Kingdom of Peace and the New Jerusalem forever.

Look at Christ's sacrifice and His mercy when we are weak! Cornelius, two men in the country of the Gergesenes, and a woman and her daughter were helped by God. God is surely able to help us.

God blesses us.