

General Service in Malang, December 18, 2022 (Sunday Morning)

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

Revelation 18:21-24 (Finality of Babylon's Fall) means the judgment for Babylon or the revenge of God towards the deeds of Babylon.

Revelation 18:21

18:21 Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore."

The great city Babylon is the same as the millstone.

Matthew 18:6

18:6 "But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea."

The millstone refers to the sin of stumbling-block. Thus, the sin of Babylon is the same as **the sin of stumbling-block**.

Matthew 18:8-9

18:8 "If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life lame or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the everlasting fire."

18:9 "And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire."

It means the cause of others to commit sin.

The greatest stumbling-block does not come from outside although there may be, but from inside our life, namely the eyes, feet, and hands. **The eyes, feet, and hands which become the stumbling block are related to the hard heart.**

1. The eyes which become the stumbling-block are encouraged by the evil and unclean heart.

- The unclean eyes.

Matthew 5:28

5:28 "But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

The unclean eyes see the unclean things which are encouraged by the unclean eyes, including being a ladies man.

- The evil eyes.

Matthew 6:22-23

6:22 "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light."

6:23 "But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!"

Being encouraged by the evil heart, namely being bound by money or the love of money, the eyes are set only upon money or fleshly things. One serves and ministers to God only to look for physical things, so he never sees God. He is never satisfied.

Consequently, the whole life is dark and cast into the outer darkness.:

1. The feet or life journey.

Psalm 139:23-24

139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties;

139:24 And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

The feet which become the stumbling-block are encouraged by the wicked heart. It goes astray from the right direction towards the New Jerusalem to the hell.

Isaiah 59:8

59:8 The way of peace they have not known, And there is no justice in their ways; They have made themselves crooked paths; Whoever takes that way shall not know peace.

Let us hope to God to search our heart and minds by the sharpness of the sword of the Word so that our life journey is not

wicked.

Markus 7:21-23

7:21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries(1), fornications(2), murders(3),

7:22 thefts(4), covetousness(5), wickedness(6), deceit(7), lewdness(8), an evil eye(9), blasphemy(10), pride(11), foolishness(12).

7:23 All these evil things come from within and defile a man."

If the heart is sanctified from the twelve evil, unclean, and bitter lust, it will be able to be filled with the twelve loaves which are set in two rows, six in a row. They refer to the sixty six books in the Bible or the true teaching Word that is ingrained in our life until our life journey is righteous, holy, and towards the eternal life.

2. The hands.

Hebrews 9:14

9:14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

The hands which become the stumbling-block are encouraged by the bad conscience or the meaningless one that results in the meaningless words and deeds. The facts found in it are as follows:

- All deeds which are not related to the service and ministry are meaningless.
Jesus redeems us so that we do not do the meaningless deeds, but we can serve and minister to God. Whatever happens in our life, let us be encouraged to be more serious in the service and ministry to God. The other things, including the impossible ones, will be God's responsibility.

- The fleshly or sinful deeds.

Galatians 5:19-21

5:19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,

5:20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,

5:21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

- The meaningless words.

Matthew 12:36

12:36 "But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.

It has no relationship with the truth of the Word, including lies and gossips.

Gossiping is the same as shutting the door, namely dead-end.

Speaking the truth is the same as opening the door or solution.

God fought for the service and ministry of the Israelites by punishing the Egyptians.

He fought for the service and ministry of the Gentiles by being punished and dead on the cross so that all of our deeds and words are not meaningless.

Therefore, the Gentiles must use the chance which is only as wide as the eye of a needle for being able to serve and minister to God always until the end line, so all our deeds are not meaningless, but can please God, namely the righteous, holy, and good deeds bringing us to enter the heavenly kingdom.

The service and ministry to God are able to diminish and kill the meaningless words and deeds until we can do and say the righteous, holy, and good things that please God and others. Committing the service and ministry to God is the same as bearing the cross that is not comfortable to the flesh. Nevertheless, our life will always be in surplus condition (the cross = +), not minus.

1 Timothy 2:8

2:8 I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting;

If the heart and hands have been sanctified, the service and ministry to God will peak on the strong worship prayer (the prayer of man) to please God and come to His presence.

Getting angry must be with reason and love to help.

Letting the sin is not holy. Rebuking the sin is holy.

The worship prayer in one hour prayer, fasting prayer, and all night-long prayer is the process to tear the flesh to put to death the sins in the flesh or heart that are like the worms which gnaw men up to the hell.

For example, Mary faced Lazarus who had died for four days.

John 11:32,43-44

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."

11:43 Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!"

11:44 And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."

Mary could fall down at Jesus' feet with a broken heart, confessing that she was only the clay which was not precious and unable or she could only hope the mercy of God. As a result, the clay will be in the hand of God. It means that God pays attention to, care for, and struggle for us. There is spiritual and physical restoration.

One who has died spiritually or been not fervent anymore in the service and ministry to God can be faithful and fervent in spirit in doing the spiritual things. One who commits sins up to the peak can live in righteousness and holiness. The rotten until producing worms can be changed into the new ones.

John 11:39

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."

Martha was hard-hearted. It means not believing and obeying God. It is changed into the meek one, namely being honest, believing, and being obedient. The destroyed things can be made good. The failure can be changed into success, beauty, up to perfection.

God blesses you.