

General Service in Malang, December 23, 2018 (Sunday Morning)

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

Revelation 8:6-13

8:6 So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

8:7 The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.

8:8 Then the second angel sounded: And something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood.

8:9 And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

8:10 Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water.

8:11 The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.

8:12 Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night.

8:13 And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"

There are two possibilities in the blowing of the trumpet as follows.

1. The present blowing of the trumpet. It means the preaching of the shepherding Word for all of us to sanctify and change us until we are perfect and worthy to welcome Jesus' second coming on the glorious clouds.
2. The future blowing of the trumpet. It refers to the judgment of the Son of God to the world or men who reject the sound of the present blowing of the trumpet, the hard teaching Word, or the sanctification and renewal.
The blowing of the first trumpet refers to the first judgment of the Son of God to the world which is signified by the hail and fire, mingled with blood.

The spiritual meaning of the hail is the crisis of love or the love becomes cold.

The fire refers to the lawlessness which abounds.

The blood refers to the bloodshed of innocent people. It begins from vilifying, slandering, up to killing the righteous.

Consequently, a third of the earth is burned up. A third of the trees are burned up, and all green grass is burned up.

The green grass refers to the shepherding. It is burned up. It means that the lawlessness happens in the shepherding because of the crisis of love, so the pastor and the sheep are not shepherded, but scattered.

John 18:18

18:18 Now the servants and officers who had made a fire of coals stood there, for it was cold, and they warmed themselves. And Peter stood with them and warmed himself.

For example, Peter got the crisis of love or his love became cold. It means not being shepherded or not persevering in the three main services to God anymore. There is no fire of the Word (the Bible Study Service), Holy Spirit (the General Service), and God's love (the Prayer Service). Peter warmed himself near the fire of the world, sins, and fleshly lusts.

Consequently, Peter rebelled against the Lord. He **denied** Jesus three times.

The facts found in it are as follows.

1. **Peter denied Jesus for the first in front of the gate of salvation.** It means that he denied the cross of Jesus or Christ's sacrifice.

John 18:17

18:17 Then the servant girl who kept the door said to Peter, "You are not also one of this Man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not."

1 Peter 4:1-2

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.

The cross means the willingness to suffer in the flesh to stop sinning and live according to the will of God, namely living in righteousness and being the instruments of righteousness. Living in righteousness is the same as being saved and blessed by God.

Philippians 3:18-19

3:18 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:

3:19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame--who set their mind on earthly things.

Why did Peter rebel and reject the cross?

He did it because his mind was set only to the worldly things until sacrificing the spiritual things, which are eternal. Such life only commits and enjoys in sins up to the peak.

Denying Jesus is the same as having neither cross nor salvation.

2. **Peter denied Jesus, the Teacher.** It means denying the true teaching Word.

John 18:26

18:26 One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of him whose ear Peter cut off, said, "Did I not see you in the garden with Him?"

There are two kinds of the preaching of the Word, namely the Gospel Word and the teaching Word.

The Gospel Word or the milk is intended for the people who do not know Jesus yet or the ones who have just been reborn in Jesus or believed Him, repented, and got the water baptism.

It must be continued with the teaching Word or the solid food, namely the Word which is sharper than any two-edged sword to make our spirituality mature.

The true teaching Word means as follows.

- The Word which is written in the Bible.
- It is revealed by God through a verse that explains other verses in the Bible.
- It dares to reveal the true marriage and ordination.
- It is not intended to look for any physical profits.

The beginning of denying the true teaching Word is being doubtful to the true teaching Word because of hearing the strange or other voices. Consequently, the daily life, the ministry, the marriage, the future, and the salvation are uncertain.

Moreover, he must reject the true teaching and choose the strange one because it is suitable to his fleshly lusts. Such life has no sanctification and renewal. He becomes the man in blood and flesh who cannot inherit the heavenly kingdom, but sinks in the sea of fire and brimstone or perishes forever.

Thus, denying Jesus is the same as being without the true teaching Word, holiness, and the renewal of life. It means that one only becomes the man in blood and flesh who cannot inherit the heavenly kingdom.

3. **Peter denied Jesus, his friend.**

John 18:26-27

18:26 One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of him whose ear Peter cut off, said, "Did I not see you in the garden with Him?"

18:27 Peter then denied again; and immediately a rooster crowed.

It means as follows.

- The friend refers to the relationship in the pure love.

John 15:13

15:13 "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

Peter did not love Jesus as his friend. It means that he had no love. He did neither love God nor other people.

Colossians 3:14

3:14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

Having no love means that there are no unity and perfection and one can neither enter the unity of the perfect body of Christ, become the bride of God, nor welcome Jesus' second coming on the glorious clouds.

- Disobedience.

John 14:15

14:15 *"If you love Me, keep My commandments.*

John 21:3,7

21:3 *Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We are going with you also." They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing.*

21:7 *Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea.*

Peter was disobedient because of fulfilling the fleshly will and logic, not the faith.

He resisted against the command of God and returned to be a fisherman. It means that he denied the Lord because of physical thing. Consequently, the total failure happened. All physical and spiritual activities in the world without the true teaching Word (not in line with the command of God) are useless until one is totally failed, naked, or ashamed, until he falls in sins up to the peak.

Matthew 10:33

10:33 *"But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.*

Peter denied the Lord three times. It means that his body, soul, and spirit denied the Trinity of God.

Praise the Lord. There was still the crowing of a rooster. It refers to the repeated shepherding Word, the green grass, or the perseverance in the three main services to God.

John 21:15,17

21:15 *So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs."*

21:17 *He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep."*

After Peter received the crowing of the rooster or the repeated shepherding Word in the sheepfold, he experienced the following two things.

1. He was grieved.

The repeated shepherding Word makes us realize about the wrong things in our life, so we do not judge other people. We can honestly confess our sins to God and other people. After being forgiven, do not repeat the sin. As a result, the blood of Jesus finishes the sins and we get the love of God.

Proverbs 28:13

28:13 *He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.*

We get the love of God, so we can love Him more than anything and we can love other people like we love ourselves until we can love our enemy. We do not experience the spiritual cold. We always have the love.

2. Being changed. We can stretch out our hands to God and be obedient until the flesh does not speak anymore. Peter willingly sacrificed all things for God.

John 21:18-19

21:18 *"Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish."*

21:19 *This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me."*

Worshiping God, heart to heart, eyes to eyes (we look at God and He looks at us), mouth to mouth (we cry out "Lord, help me" and He answers our prayer), and hands to hands (we stretch out our hands and He stretches out His loving and powerful hands to us) happen.

2 Kings 4:34-36

4:34 *And he went up and lay on the child, and put his mouth on his mouth, his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his*

hands; and he stretched himself out on the child, and the flesh of the child became warm.

4:35 He returned and walked back and forth in the house, and again went up and stretched himself out on him; then the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes.

4:36 And he called Gehazi and said, "Call this Shunammite woman." So he called her. And when she came in to him, he said, "Pick up your son."

1 Peter 5:5-6

5:5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

5:6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

The hands of God are stretched out with the power of lifting up. It means as follows.

- The hands of God finish all impossible problems in His time. Failure is changed into success and beauty in His time.
- We are used to glorify the name of God. We are sanctified and changed until being as perfect as Jesus is when He comes a second time. We are lifted up on the glorious clouds to be with Him forever.

God blesses you.