

General Service in Malang, December 29, 2019 (Sunday Morning)

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

Revelation 10:8-11

10:8 Then the voice which I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, "Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the earth."

10:9 So I went to the angel and said to him, "Give me the little book." And he said to me, "Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth."

10:10 Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter.

10:11 And he said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings."

The angel refers to the pastor. The little book which is open refers to the revelation of the word of God.

So, the little book which is open in the hand of the angel refers to the shepherding word or the revelation of the word of God which is entrusted by God to a pastor to be preached to the congregation faithfully, regularly, continually, and repetitively as food for them with two tastes, namely the sweet one and the bitter one.

The meanings of the of bitter and sweet taste are as follows:

1. The attitude in hearing the shepherding word.

Proverbs 27:7

27:7 A satisfied soul loathes the honeycomb, But to a hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet

The positive attitude is that we can eat the shepherding word or the hard true teaching word although it is bitter or hurtful for the flesh with a need, so we can taste it as sweet as honey.

As a result, the bitter life becomes sweet little by little.

Matthew 15:24

15:24 But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

Mark 7:27-30

7:27 But Jesus said to her, "Let the children be filled first, for it is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs."

7:28 And she answered and said to Him, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs under the table eat from the children's crumbs."

7:29 Then He said to her, "For this saying go your way; the demon has gone out of your daughter."

7:30 And when she had come to her house, she found the demon gone out, and her daughter lying on the bed

For example, the woman of Canaan who has broken marriage and children. felt bitter in her life like being in the hell. But, she could receive the true teaching Word which was hard, so her life became sweet little by little, peaceful and easy and light.

Matthew 14:3-4,6-9

14:3 For Herod had laid hold of John and bound him, and put him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife.

14:4 Because John had said to him, "It is not lawful for you to have her."

14:6 But when Herod's birthday was celebrated, the daughter of Herodias danced before them and pleased Herod.

14:7 Therefore he promised with an oath to give her whatever she might ask.

14:8 So she, having been prompted by her mother, said, "Give me John the Baptist's head here on a platter."

14:9 And the king was sorry; nevertheless, because of the oaths and because of those who sat with him, he commanded it to be given to her.

On the contrary, the king Herod who was great rejected the true teaching word that rebuked his wrong marriage, so his life which was sweet or in atmosphere of feast in the beginning became bitter or sad until perishing.

2. The work of the shepherding word.

Revelation 10:9-10

10:9 So I went to the angel and said to him, "Give me the little book." And he said to me, "Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth."

10:10 Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter

The true teaching word which is hard and repeated sanctifies our heart (inward man) and mouth (outward man). The sanctification to our inward and outward man refers to the sanctification to our whole life or the body, soul, and spirit are sanctified.

Colossians 3:5-7

3:5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

3:6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience,

3:7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

The sanctification to the outward man is from the six deeds of sin including the words which have been ingrained.

Colossians 3:8-9

3:8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.

3:9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds.

The sanctification to the inward man is from the six sins which are inside man until there is no lie anymore.

Colossians 3:10

3:10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

It continuous until the Gentiles can be changed to become the new men. From the dog and swine, we can become the sheep which are shepherded well and correctly.

The gentiles who are not shepherded will be wild anymore like the dog and swine.

Revelation 17:1-2,5,15

17:1 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters,

17:2 "with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication."

17:5 And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH

17:15 Then he said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.

They are like many waters which flow freely and ruled by the woman of Babylon. They only do sins up to the peak or the sins of eating-drinking and marrying-being given in marriage.

John 2:6-7

2:6 Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece.

2:7 Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." And they filled them up to the brim.

The solution so that the Gentiles do not become the aim of Babylon is that the Gentiles, who are like many waters, must be shepherded well and correctly like the water in the waterpot.

The three waterpots refer to the body, soul, and spirit of the husband and the other three refer to the body, soul, and spirit of the wife.

So, the husband and wife must be in one shepherding.

1 Timothy 5:17

5:17 Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine

The duty of the shepherd or pastor is preaching and teaching.

Preaching means telling the gospel word or the milk to men who have not believed Jesus yet or the new men to add the quantity of the body of Christ.

Teaching means telling the hard true teaching word to men who have believed Jesus to increase their quality until they are mature in spirituality.

Proverbs 28:9

28:9 One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, Even his prayer is an abomination.

If the shepherd does not feed the sheep with the word or the will of God, there is no intercession prayer or his prayer is an abomination, so the congregation will not have the cover of protection.

The duty of the sheep is eating the shepherding word.

The activities in the shepherding are as follows:

1. Filling the six waterpots with water up to the brim.

John 2:7

2:7 Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." And they filled them up to the brim.

It refers to the Golden Candlestick or the perseverance in doing the General Service. We hear the gospel word like the waterpot is filled by water. The gospel word calls the sinful men to believe Jesus and be saved by Him.

Matthew 15:24

15:24 But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

Actually, the people whom God seek for through the gospel word are the house of Israel or the lost sheep so that they believe Jesus and get the salvation.

Romans 11:25

11:25 For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

But, because a part of Israelites has been hard-hearted and rejected Jesus, the opportunity is opened to the Gentiles who willingly get humble and gentle to believe Jesus and be saved.

Through the perseverance in doing the General Service, the Gentiles are being saved. The spouse must persevere in doing the General Service so that they are saved together, firm, and increasing in the salvation.

The signs of salvation are as follows:

- Having faith means trusting Jesus as the only savior.
- Repenting, stopping sinning and returning to God, or being dead to sins.
- Entering the water baptism.
- Entering the Holy Spirit baptism.

We get the new life or live in the righteousness. We are saved.

Proverbs 11:4

11:4 Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, But righteousness delivers from death.

The righteousness preserves us from now until the eternal life. The death cannot touch us.

2. Being drawn by God.

John 2:8

2:8 And He said to them, "Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast." And they took it.

It means being chosen by God to be sanctified. It is the activity in the true teaching word or the perseverance and patience in doing the Bible Study Service and Holy Communion.

When we are persevering and patient like Job, we get the sweet fruits for sure.

Exodus 29:1

29:1 "And this is what you shall do to them to hallow them for ministering to Me as priests: Take one young bull and two rams without blemish.

Being drawn by God means that we are chosen and sanctified to be appointed as the priest and king.

Exodus 19:6

19:6 'And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

Actually, the people who can become the priest and king are only the children of Israel and their descendants.

1 Peter 2:9-10

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.

But, through the mercy of God which is as precious as the sacrifice of Christ on the cross, the Gentiles can be chosen and appointed as the priest and king.

The duties of the priest are as follows:

- Testifying.

Revelation 10:11

10:11 And he said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings."

It means testifying the gospel word, the good news, or about how we, the sinful men can be justified and saved by God.

It also means testifying the teaching word, the Bride Tidings, or about how we are sanctified and appointed as the priest and king.

- Being used in the edification of the perfect body of Christ.

1 Peter 2:5

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.

It begins from the marriage, shepherding, and inter-shepherding.

So, we become as living stones. It means that we live by the mercy of God in anytime, anywhere, and in any circumstances. We get the beautiful tunic, so our life becomes beautiful.

- 3. Tasting the water.

John 2:9-10

2:9 When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom.

2:10 And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!"

It refers to the activity in the love of God or the perseverance in doing the Prayer Service or the Golden Altar of Incense until we taste the sweet wine.

We experience the renewal of life. What things must be renewed?

John 2:3

2:3 And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine."

The worry is renewed into trusting and entrusting our life fully to God.

1 Peter 5:7

5:7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

John 2:5

2:5 His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it."

The disobedience becomes obedience.

The tongue is changed, so it can taste the sweet wine and lick the crumbs, until there is no lie anymore.

The tongue can be honest and speak the faithful words.

Mark 7:27-29

7:27 But Jesus said to her, "Let the children be filled first, for it is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs."

7:28 And she answered and said to Him, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs under the table eat from the children's crumbs."

7:29 Then He said to her, "For this saying go your way; the demon has gone out of your daughter."

It means stretching our hand to God, so He stretches His merciful hand. The faith that is added with the mercy of God will produce miracle.

Luke 5:5

5:5 But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net."

For example, Peter refers to men who are in failure, crisis in economy, *et cetera*. Nevertheless, when they willingly get honest and obedient, God is able to help them. It is easier than turning the palm of hand.

The woman of Canaan whose child was demon-possessed refers to women who are in the crisis of marriage and children. When they can honestly confess their sins and have the words of faith (justify the word), God is able to restore them.

Daniel 3:16-18

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."

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego refer to the youth. When they still believe God even though they are not helped, God is with them, so the impossible problems become possible until they are perfect.

God blesses you.