

General Service in Malang, February 23, 2014 (Sunday Morning)

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

Revelation 1:9-20 is about the vision of John on Patmos island.

Revelation 1:9

1:9 I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

John the apostle was on Patmos island and experienced flesh suffering for the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. He experienced it not because of doing sins. It was flesh suffering without any sins. Thus, it encouraged him to enter true fellowship with God and the others.

Now, if our life, marriage, and ministry are marked with flesh suffering without any sins, we will be able to enter true fellowship with God and the others.

Fellowship with the others is fellowship of the perfect body of Christ. It is started with fellowship within marriage, continued with fellowship within shepherding, between shepherding, until the Israelites and Gentiles become one perfect body of Christ.

Fellowship with God is fellowship of the body with the Head, or fellowship between the bride and the Bridegroom forever.

To be able to enter the true fellowship, we need flesh suffering without any sins. Be watchful because there is flesh suffering because of sins that will scatter the true fellowship and make one enter the wrong fellowship, that is fellowship of the body of Babylon.

There are three important things in the true fellowship as follows.

1. Fellowship in the tribulation = the way of death, the way of the cross.
It is the true fellowship.

2. Fellowship in the kingdom = the way of resurrection.

It is the fellowship of priests and kings who have the right to inherit the kingdom of Heaven. Priest is the one who is holy, holds the ministry from God, and ministers Him according to the ministry from Him. Priest is the one who is victorious and can win the others.

3. Fellowship in perseverance in waiting Jesus = the way of glory.

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Matthew 24:30-31

24:30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

24:31 And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Jesus will come for the second time in glory as King of kings and Heavenly bridegroom on the glorious clouds. He will lift up the chosen people or the perfect bride to the glorious clouds to welcome His second coming and enter the marriage supper of the Lamb of God.

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 must keep the physical marriage, starting from the beginning, the journey, up to the end of marriage, until we can enter the spiritual marriage in the marriage supper of the Lamb of God. The things that must be kept are righteousness, holiness, and unity of marriage.

After entering the marriage supper of the Lamb of God, we will enter the Paradise or the kingdom of peace a thousand years [Revelation 20]. Afterwards, we will enter the New Jerusalem, the eternal kingdom of Heaven forever [Revelation 21-22].

Now, our preparation is we must enter fellowship in perseverance to wait His second coming on the glorious clouds. Thus, we will not be left and destroyed with this world. There are three types of perseverance as follows.

a. Perseverance in faith.

Acts 14:22

14:22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."

Romans 10:17

10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

The true faith comes from hearing the Word of Christ, that is the Word anointed by Holy Spirit, or the Word whose secret is revealed through one verse explains the other verses in the Bible.

Thus, the true faith means as follows.

- Faith that comes from hearing the true teaching Word.
The process is hearing, understanding, believing and having faith to the Word so it becomes faith within the heart.
- Faith that is followed with the work of faith, that is living in righteousness.

Thus, perseverance in faith is perseverance in the true teaching Word. We hold fast to the true teaching Word and persevere in living in righteousness.

Philippians 1:29

1:29 For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,

The true faith is accompanied with flesh suffering without any sins. It is flesh suffering because of Jesus. It is called as the test of faith so the faith becomes genuine as pure gold.

1 Peter 1:6-7

*1:6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,
1:7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,*

Having the genuine faith means that we hold fast the true teaching Word and keep living in righteousness when facing problems even the impossible one, temptations, oppressions, sins.

If we have true and genuine faith, we will be worthy to welcome His second coming on the glorious clouds.

Luke 18:8

18:8 I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"

The true and genuine faith is a strong foundation to welcome His second coming.

b. Perseverance in shepherding.

Acts 2:41-42

2:41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

The condition of the congregation in the first rain after being baptized with water and Holy Spirit is entering the perseverance in three main services as follows.

- Perseverance in fellowship = Golden Candlestick.
- Perseverance in the apostles' doctrine and the breaking of bread = Table of Showbread.
- Perseverance in prayers = Golden Altar of Incense.

Nowadays, the condition of the congregation in the last rain after being baptized with water and Holy Spirit is entering the shepherding pen (the Holy Place). Three types of equipment within the Holy Place refer to perseverance in three main services.

- Golden Candlestick = perseverance in General Service. We have fellowship with Holy Spirit God in His gifts. It equals to the Pentecost feast.

- Table of Showbread = perseverance in Bible Study Service with Holy Communion. We have fellowship with the Son of God in the true teaching Word and the sacrifice of Christ. It equals to Passover feast where we throw away all yeast of sins.
- Golden Altar of Incense = perseverance in Prayer Service. We have fellowship with Father God in His love. It equals to the feast of Tabernacles.

Within the shepherding, our body, spirit, and soul attach to God the Trinity. Thus, there is no chance for Satan to touch us.

Entering the shepherding pen is as entering narrow door, but we will reap the result, that is *â€œI shall not wantâ€*.

Psalm 23:1

23:1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

It means as follows.

- We experience God's care abundantly, so we always give thanks to God.
- We experience continuous sanctification.

Genesis 37:1-2

37:1 Now Jacob dwelt in the land where his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan.

37:2 This is the history of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brothers. And the lad was with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to his father.

The sanctification is started from evil and unclean heart. Evil is the lust of money that causes stinginess and greediness. Uncleanliness is sin concerning eating-drinking (smoking, getting drunk, consuming drugs) and marrying-being given in marriage (sexuality sin with all its variety, wrong marriage).

Until we experience sanctification of the mouth. Let *â€œyesâ€* be *â€œyesâ€* and *â€œnoâ€* be *â€œnoâ€*.

Genesis 37:3

37:3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age. Also he made him a tunic of many colors.

If we are staying within the pen and being sanctified, we will be given the tunic of many colors. It means we serve God with the gifts of Holy Spirit, that is miraculous ability from Him. If there is this beautiful tunic, He will also give us beautiful future. Within the shepherding, God does not torture us, but He still beautifies our life.

c. Perseverance in prayer.

Colossians 4:2

4:2 Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;

There are some kinds of prayer which are taught by God as follows.

- One hour prayer, so we will not fall in temptation.
- Fasting prayer, so we always return to the Bible or the true teaching Word.
- Night prayer until Jesus's second coming.

Genesis 32:24,28

32:24 Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day.

*32:28 And He said, *â€œYour name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.â€**

We may struggle for physical matters, but the peak is the struggle to get new name. Jacob becomes Israel that means hero. The practices are as follows.

- Holding the horns of the altar, meaning being brave to confess our sins.

1 Kings 1:50-52

1:50 Now Adonijah was afraid of Solomon; so he arose, and went and took hold of the horns of the altar.

*1:51 And it was told Solomon, saying, *â€œIndeed Adonijah is afraid of King Solomon; for look, he has taken hold of the horns of the altar, saying, *â€œLet King Solomon swear to me today that he will not put his servant to death with the sword.â€***

1:52 Then Solomon said, *âIf he proves himself a worthy man, not one hair of him shall fall to the earth; but if wickedness is found in him, he shall die.â*

Thus, not one hair will fall to the earth. We are cared and protected by God although we are powerless.

- o Being strong and of good courage. We hold fast the true teaching Word and obey it whatever the risks are.

1 Samuel 16:18

16:18 Then one of the servants answered and said, âLook, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the Lord is with him.â

1 Samuel 17:32

17:32 Then David said to Saul, âLet no manâs heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.â

We hold fast the true shepherding. We do not become desperate and disappointed, but we keep believing and fully surrendering to God. We only cry out His name.

David wins over Goliath means the merciful hands of God are surely still able to help us. The merciful hands of God are able to lift up our fall, as David was lifted up after he fell with Bathsheba. Goliath also represents the influences from the world and flesh that increase as a giant. If we are strong and of good courage, we will be able to beat all those influences. We will be sanctified and renewed little by little until we are perfect as Him on His second coming.

God blesses us.