

General Service in Malang, January 07, 2024 (Sunday Morning)

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

Revelation 21:1-8 can be divided into three parts as follows:

1. [verse 1] The new heaven and earth.
2. [verse 2-3] The new man.
3. [verse 4-8] The new atmosphere.
 - a. [verse 4] The atmosphere without death.
 - b. [verse 5-6] The atmosphere of heavenly satisfaction.
 - c. [verse 7] The atmosphere of victory.
 - d. [verse 8] The atmosphere of the truth, holiness, and perfection.

ad.d. The atmosphere of the truth, holiness, and perfection.

Revelation 21:8

21:8 "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

The eight sins which drown men to the hell are as follows:

- (1) *the cowardly*, (2) *unbelieving*--> are resisting against the truth.
- (3) *abominable*, (4) *murderers*, (5) *sexually immoral*, (6) *sorcerers*, (7) *idolaters*--> are resisting against the holiness.
- (8) *liars*--> is resisting against the perfection.

James 3:2

3:2 For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.

The number eight refers to the eight people in the ark of Noah. It means entering the true water baptism or being drowned or buried in the water together with Jesus and raised to get the new life, namely the life in righteousness, holiness, up to perfection.

We are learning about (1) *the cowardly*, (2) *unbelieving*.

Matthew 14:30-31

14:30 But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"

14:31 And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

For example, Peter, a great servant of God, experienced many miracles, but became doubtful in facing the wind or storm in the sea of the world until beginning to sink.

Our following Jesus is like crossing the sea of the world to the haven of peace, namely the marriage supper of the Lamb [Revelation 19], the One-Thousand-Year Kingdom of Peace [Revelation 20], and the New Jerusalem [Revelation 21-22].

Our following Jesus must increase because the sins are increasing also up to the peak, namely the sins concerning eating-drinking and marrying-being given in marriage.

1. Son's following the father. It refers to the salvation. Nevertheless, there is still the lost son.
2. Sheep's following the shepherd. It is for making the salvation firm. Nevertheless, there is still the lost sheep.
3. Disciple's following the teacher. It means receiving the true teaching Word to get the sanctification. Nevertheless, the student may be separated from the teacher.
4. Body's following the Head. It means not being able to be separated until forever.

It means that we must enter the ministry for the edification of the perfect Christ's body for placing Jesus as the Head. It starts from the ministry in marriage, shepherding, and inter-shepherding until Israel and Gentiles become one perfect body of Christ.

Why must we be active in the edification of Christ's body or crossing over to the other side?

Matthew 14:22

14:22 Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes

away.

It is because God Himself commands it. Not entering the edification of Christ's body is the same as transgressing the command of God or being disobedient like Adam and Eve until being naked, fearful, curded, and destroyed.

Why does God command us to enter the edification of Christ's body or cross over to the others side?

1. His longing of heart is to become Head over our life until being dead on the Hill of the Skull or Golgotha.
2. So that we do not enter the edification of the body of Babylon or the false church whose head is foxes, evil spirit, the will of money, or stinginess and greediness as well as the birds or unclean spirit that is perfect in the evil and uncleanness until perishing forever.

Matthew 14:22

14:22 Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away.

Only the disciples were sent by the Lord to cross over to the other side. The disciple refers to the people who receive the sword of the Word or the true teaching Word, namely being written in the Bible and revealed by Holy Spirit through a verse that explains other verses in the Bible.

Matthew 4:23

4:23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.

Jesus, the Great Shepherd, gives the example in preaching the Word of God doubly as follows:

1. Gospel Word or the gospel of salvation for bringing the sinners to believe Jesus and be saved and blessed. It results in the revival of Holy Spirit at the early rain, namely from Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, up to the end of the earth. It is for adding the quantity of the members of Christ's body, namely from Jesus, twelve disciples, seventy disciples, three thousand people, five thousand people, to innumerable number.
2. The teaching Word or the sword of the Word for choosing the saved people to be sanctified and perfected. It results in the revival of Holy Spirit at the latter rain for adding the quality of the members of the body of Christ until reaching the perfection. The marriage or fellowship without the true teaching Word is the same as edifying the body without the head. It is terrible and the division will happen.

For crossing over to the other side, we need the sacrifice. It means the cross.

Luke 13:22-24

*13:22 And He went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem.
13:23 Then one said to Him, "Lord, are there few who are saved?" And He said to them,
13:24 "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able.*

The sword and cross cannot be separated. Both of them are painful for the flesh. As a result, we are used by God.

[Matthew 14:22] "He sent the multitudes away." It means that many are called (being saved and blessed), but few are chosen. Why?

1. Because of rejecting the sword or not being able to get the sanctification until returning to the old life. It also means keeping the tradition which is not in line with the true teaching Word.

Matthew 15:1-3

*15:1 Then the scribes and Pharisees who were from Jerusalem came to Jesus, saying,
15:2 "Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread."
15:3 He answered and said to them, "Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?*

One also keeps the wrong marriage like Herod.

2. Because of not being willing to sacrifice. It means rejecting the cross. There are two hindrances in the edification of Christ's body as follows:
 - From outside, the wind and waves attack the boat of our life, namely our private life, marriage, and shepherding, for

making us drowned and destroyed.

The wind refers to the gossips and false teachings that cause the Church to lose the direction to the New Jerusalem.

The wave refers to sins up to the peak and the impossible problems or temptations.

The wind and waves are blown by Satan with the power of death for making the faith fall, so one does not hold fast to the true teaching Word, but follows the false teachings or does not believe Jesus until perishing.

- From inside, the fear and doubt become the biggest wave that drowns.

The fear refers to fearing something in the world until resisting against God or the true teachings.

The doubt refers to doubting the Lord Himself, His power, and the true teaching Word until choosing the false one.

The Lord is said ghost and the ghost is said the lord until perishing.

The way of God's help is as follows:

Matthew 14:23

14:23 And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there.

As for God, Jesus went up on the mountain (it refers to Golgotha) to pray. It means that Jesus appears as the High Priest who brings the incense and blood for performing the ministry of reconciliation, namely reconciling and helping us.

Matthew 14:30-31

14:30 But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"

14:31 And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

As for us, we stretch out our hands of faith to Jesus to return to Him or the true teaching Word and fully surrender to God. We cry out to God.

Matthew 14:32

14:32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

As a result, God stretches out His merciful hands to do the following things:

- a. Making the wind and waves calm. It means solving all impossible problems and giving peace, so all things become easy and light.
- b. Lifting from drowning in time of need. It means changing us to be honest, so we can confess all of our weaknesses. We are used in the ministry for the edification of Christ's body. We become the house of prayer and the miracle will happen for sure. The impossible things can be made possible.

God blesses you.