

General Service in Malang, July 03, 2016 (Sunday Morning)

CHILD SUBMISSION SERVICE

Luke 2:22-24

2:22 Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord

2:23 (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord"),

2:24 and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

The child submission follows the example of Jesus who was submitted by bringing a sacrifice, that is a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. It means that He comes from a poor class. But in His growth, He became a bright life and blessed the others. Richness or poverty cannot decide our future. The thing that determines is when we are submitted into the hands of God.

Now, we do not need to bring animal for sacrifice, because it has been fulfilled by the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. Now, we surrender our whole life to God.

- The redemption offering is so that we are always redeemed or set free from sins. We can live in righteousness in midst of the world.
- The consecration offering is so we become the priests and kings who serve God and are faithful to Him. It is as He gives us the beautiful tunic, so there is beautiful and successful future.

It is until we become the belonging of God forever.

GENERAL SERVICE

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

Revelation 4:3

4:3 And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.

God and His throne radiate the light of glory (shekinah glory) in the form of the light of the precious stones. There are four precious stones as follows.

1. Jasper stone refers to the faith (= the Gate of Tabernacle).
2. Sardius stone refers to repentance (= the Altar of Burnt Offering).
3. Crystal or the sea of glass refers to water baptism (= the Brazen Laver).
4. Emerald or the rainbow around the throne refers to Holy Spirit baptism (= the door of Tabernacle).

ad. 2. Sardius stone.

Exodus 27:1

27:1 "You shall make an altar of acacia wood, five cubits long and five cubits wide--the altar shall be square--and its height shall be three cubits.

The Altar of Burnt Offering is made of acacia wood that refers to flesh man. The acacia wood is black and hard, representing sins and hard heart. Thus, acacia wood is man who hardens his heart and is sinful. Actually, he must be destroyed.

Altar comes from the word "*altare*", meaning a lifted up place, that is the cross of Christ.

John 12:32-33

12:32 And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to Myself."

12:33 This He said, signifying by what death He would die.

In the past, there were offering animals to be slaughtered and burnt. Now, it has been fulfilled by the sacrifice of Christ as the Lamb of God.

John 1:29

1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

A flesh man who hardens his heart and is sinful can experience forgiveness of his sins and repent if he is willing to bear the cross of Christ.

Proverbs 28:13

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

The process of repentance is as follows.

1. Confessing all our sins to God (vertical) and the others (horizontal). If we are forgiven, we must not repeat them. We leave sins.
2. Forgiving the sin of the others and forget it.

When we confess and forgive one another, we will experience the love of Jesus from the cross to cover and reconcile sins, so we can repent.

Ephesians 3:18-19

3:18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height--

3:19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Thus, we can understand and experience the height and depth, as well as the width and length of the love of Jesus from the cross. The practices are as follows.

1. The height and depth equals to ascending and descending.

Ephesians 4:8-12

4:8 Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men."

4:9 (Now this, "He ascended"--what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?)

4:10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

4:11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

4:12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

Jesus descended into the lower parts of the earth. It equals to dying on the cross. It is the depth of Jesus' love to set free men from the captivity of death and perdition.

Revelation 21:8

21:8 But (1)the cowardly, (2)unbelieving, (3)abominable, (4)murderers, (5)sexually immoral, (6)sorcerers, (7)idolaters, and all (8)liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

Especially, we must be set free from eight sins that will bring us directly to death as follows.

- Being coward, meaning being afraid of something so having no fear of God.
- Unbelieving.
- Being abominable or evil.
- Murderer, meaning hating the others up to hatred without any reasons.
- Being sexually immoral, that is sexuality sin with all its varieties, sexual deviations, mix marriage, marrying-divorcing, having an affair, *et cetera*.
- Sorcerer.
- Idolater. Idol is everything that obstructs us to love God.
- Liar.

Revelation 1:5-6

1:5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,

1:6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Jesus ascended to make us priests and kings, the servants of God. We experience the height of Jesus' love when we become priests and kings.

Ephesians 4:12

4:12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

God equips us with the ministry and gifts of Holy Spirit to enter the ministry of building the body of Christ. He does not torture us, but He gives us the beautiful tunic. Our life will be more beautiful.

Acts 20:17-20, 22-24

20:17 From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church.

20:18 And when they had come to him, he said to them: "You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you,
 20:19 serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews;
 20:20 how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house,
 20:22 And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there,
 20:23 except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me.
 20:24 But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

If we receive the height and depth of the love of Jesus, we will be lifted up from the captivity of death to the bond of the spirit. It means as follows.

- The servant of God who serves with all humility, meaning being able to confess the sins. If we are forgiven, we must not repeat the sins. Humility also means being able to confess that the others are superior, so we can work together. We can lighten the burden of the others.
- The servant of God who is marked with many tears, meaning ministering with sincerity and sacrifice for God.
- The servant of God who serves until the end line, that is until we die or Jesus comes a second time.

2. The width and length.

Ephesians 5:25-26

5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,
 5:26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,

Jesus is willing to surrender Himself to die on the cross to sanctify and cleanse us with the washing of water by the Word.

- Water refers to water baptism. We can enter water baptism through the guide of the Gospel Word.

Romans 6:4

6:4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

The true water baptism is only one. We must be baptized as Jesus was baptized. One who has repented and died to sins must be buried in water together with Jesus, to be raised from water together with Him and receive new life or Heavenly life.

Matthew 3:16

3:16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.

- The Word.

John 15:3

15:3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

We are sanctified by the Word spoken by Jesus, that is one verse explains the other verses in the Bible. It is called the teaching Word that is sharper than any double-edged sword.

Matthew 15:19

15:19 For out of the heart proceed (1)evil thoughts, (2)murders, (3)adulteries, (4)fornications, (5)thefts, (6>false witness, (7)blasphemies.

The heart of men are ruled by seven evil and unclean desires. It is a hard heart that equals to dark lamp or dark eyes. This kind of life will act blindly in sin up to its peak, that is sin concerning eating-drinking and marrying-being given in marriage.

If our heart is sanctified, our life will be as the burning lamp, so we become light starting from within marriage and in front of people. Sometime, we will become the light of the world. We will become the perfect bride with the light of the sun, the moon, and the stars.

Revelation 12:1

12:1 Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on

her head a garland of twelve stars.

A hard heart is renewed to the meek one, that is the heart filled with the love of God. The sign is we can love God more than everything (being obedient) and love the others as loving ourselves. A meek heart has no envy or spite. There is only sincerity. It equals to the heart of a baby whose mouth only cries and worships God.

Song of Solomon 8:6-7

8:6 Set me as a seal upon your heart, As a seal upon your arm; For love is as strong as death, Jealousy as cruel as the grave; Its flames are flames of fire, A most vehement flame.

8:7 Many waters cannot quench love, Nor can the floods drown it. If a man would give for love All the wealth of his house, It would be utterly despised.

The position of a baby is within the embrace of God's loving hands. The results are as follows.

- a. Experiencing the loving hands which are as strong as death, meaning God always cares us. He understands our condition and struggles for us in the midst of the difficult world up to the days of antichrist.
- b. Experiencing the loving hands as the flames of fire, meaning God protects us so sins cannot disturb us.

We are sanctified continually until we are perfect and may enter the New Jerusalem, the city with height, depth, width, and length.

Revelation 21:16,19,12

21:16 The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal.

21:19 The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald,

21:12 Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:

God blesses us.