

General Service in Malang, July 07, 2013 (Sunday Morning)

Peace and grace in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 28:20b

28:20 and lo, I am with you always, event to the end of the age. Amen.

He is always with us to the end of the age. It means God is with us starting from now on until the days of Antichrist, until He comes a second time on the glorious clouds and we sit together with Him on the throne of Heaven forever.

The requirements of the accompaniment of God are as follows.

1. We must have an honest heart.

Proverbs 3:32

3:32 For the perverse person is an abomination to the Lord, But His secret counsel is with the upright.

Especially, it is honesty in three matters as follows.

- Honesty about the true teaching Word.

Titus 2:7

2:7 in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility,

We can hold on to the true teaching Word and reject other teachings.

2 Timothy 2:17-18

2:17 And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort,

2:18 who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some.

The message of one who has been affected by other teachings will spread like cancer that overthrows the faith of some, so the others also say unrighteous and dishonest words.

- Honesty about marriage.

Hebrews 13:4-6

13:4 Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

13:5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, I will never leave you nor forsake you.

13:6 So we may boldly say: The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?

We must keep the faithfulness and holiness within marriage. Starting from the beginning of marriage (courtship period), the journey of marriage, until the end of marriage in the marriage supper of the Lamb of God.

- Honesty about finance.

The blessing that we receive from God contains the rights of the others, that is the rights of God who gives us the blessing (tithe and special offering) and the right of the others who are in need.

If we are honest in the matter of true teaching, marriage, and finance, we will be honest in everything, and God is with us as our helper.

The result is God helps us to solve our problems. God helps and protects us from evil men with evil deeds and words. God helps and protects our marriage until we reach perfect marriage in the marriage supper of the Lamb of God.

2. Being strong and of good courage.

Joshua 1:9

1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Being strong and of good courage means as follows.

- Not being disappointed or desperate, leaving God, or looking for way out outside the way of God. We keep believing and putting our hope in God.
- Holding on and being obedient to the true teaching Word. We do not turn to the right hand or to the left, meaning we act carefully according to the true teaching Word.

Joshua 1:7

1:7 Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.

Especially a leader must be careful in taking a decision. In a marriage, a husband must be careful since his decision determines the whole marriage. In a shepherding, a pastor (the shepherd) must also be careful since his decision is valid in the world and hereafter. Each of us is also a leader over ourselves. We must be careful in taking a decision.

- Loving God more than everything. The practice is being faithful and fervent in spirit in ministering God, and keeping worshipping God. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego also keep worshipping God although they have to face the furnace that is heated seven times more than it was normally.

Joshua 1:6,7,9,18

1:6 Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.

1:7 Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.

1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage, do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

1:18 Whoever rebels against your command and does not heed your words, in all that you command him, shall be put to death. Only be strong and of good courage.

In the first chapter of the book of Joshua, it is mentioned four times the saying "be strong and of good courage". It is because Joshua faces four big challenges as follows.

- Facing the river of Jordan.
- Facing the strong wall of Jericho.
- Facing the Canaanites.
- Facing idolatry, that is false teaching and false worship.

Because Joshua is strong and of good courage, God accompanies him so he can win over the four challenges. When we prioritize the Ark of Covenant or the true teaching Word, He will make a war for us.

For us now, four times the saying "be strong and of good courage" mean as follows.

- It is to face four times deception that is deception in the four corners of the earth.

Matthew 24:3-5,11,24

24:3 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

24:4 And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you."

24:5 For many will come in My name, saying, "I am the Christ," and will deceive many.

24:11 Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.

24:24 For false Christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

It is up to the deception to the elect, that is the one who has received the Bride Tidings. Do not feel strong since Solomon is also deceived.

- It is to face false worship or the worship of antichrist.

Revelation 13:12-14

13:12 And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

13:13 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.

13:14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.

Revelation 19:1,3-4,6

19:1 After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, *Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God!*

19:3 Again they said, *Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!*

19:4 And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, *Amen! Alleluia!*

19:6 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunders, saying, *Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!*

In the future, there will be only one voice of the Heavenly bride, that is *Alleluia*. All ministry and worship in this world must be the reflection from the ministry and worship in Heaven.

- It is to face trials that will come upon the whole world during the days of antichrist.

Revelation 3:10

3:10 Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

- It is to face the building of the perfect body of Christ.

John 17:11,21-23

17:11 Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are.

17:21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

17:22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one:

17:23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

Jesus prays four times for the building of the perfect body of Christ. It is more difficult than raising Lazarus who has died for four days.

If we are used in the building of the perfect body of Christ, it will be marked with sacrifices (time, energy, money, thought, even our whole life). There is only one thing that must not be sacrificed, that is the true teaching Word. But we do not need to be afraid, because God never fools us. Abraham offers Isaac on Mount Moriah, where the house of the Lord is built by Solomon later. If we want to enter the building of the body of Christ, we will meet Jehovah Jireh, meaning God provides everything we need. He provides not only the physical things, but also prepares us to become His bride who is ready to welcome His second coming.

Revelation 19:7

19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.

3. We must appear as spiritual baby in the embrace of the hands of God.

Isaiah 49:14-16

49:14 But Zion said, *The Lord has forsaken me, And my Lord has forgotten me.*

49:15 *Can a woman forget her nursing child, And not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, Yet I will not forget you.*

49:16 See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; Your walls are continually before Me.

The task of baby is only crying, that is worshiping God with a contrite heart. We feel unworthy and powerless, and we only depend on the merciful hands of God.

Isaiah 38:1-3

38:1 In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death. And Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, went to him and said to him, *Thus says the Lord: Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live.*

38:2 Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the Lord,

38:3 and said, *Remember now, O Lord, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what is good in Your sight. And Hezekiah wept bitterly.*

Hezekiah is a great man, but he can weep bitterly as a baby. The requirement is being faithful and sincere, and doing good

deeds that please God and the others. We even repay evil with good.
The results are as follows.

- The merciful hands of God decide our death and life. He is able to care our life miraculously.

Isaiah 38:4-5

38:4 And the word of the Lord came to Isaiah, saying,

*38:5 **Go and tell Hezekiah, **Thus says the Lord, the God of David your father: **I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will add to your days fifteen years.*******

- The merciful hands of God protect us and give us victory over our enemies, so we can live in peace.

Isaiah 38:6

38:6 I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria, and I will defend this city.

- The merciful hands of God restore our broken and meaningless past life, and give us good, successful, and beautiful future.

Isaiah 38:7-8

38:7 And this is the sign to you from the Lord, that the Lord will do this thing which He has spoken:

*38:8 **Behold, I will bring the shadow on the sundial, which has gone down with the sun on the sundial of Ahaz, ten degrees backward. **So the sun returned ten degrees on the dial by which it had gone down.*****

God is able to wipe our tears. Physically, it means that He solves all our problems even the impossible ones. Spiritually, He sanctifies and renews our life. When we are renewed, our tears are wiped. At last, we will be renewed as glorious as Him and become His bride on His second coming, and we will sit together with Him on the throne of Heaven forever.

God blesses us.