

General Service in Malang, July 24, 2016 (Sunday Morning)

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 to illuminate all men in the world who live in the darkness of sins and under curse, and will be destroyed forever. God radiates the light of glory so men can be as perfect and glorious as Him to be worthy to sit together with Him on the throne of Heaven forever.

1 Peter 2:6-7

2:6 Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame."

2:7 Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, "The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone,"

Jesus as the precious stone has been thrown away by men, meaning He is willing to die on the cross to do two things as follows.

1. Becoming the chief cornerstone or the foundation of the building of the spiritual house or the perfect body of Christ.
2. To use the hard stone, that is the Gentiles who live in sins, in the ministry of building the perfect body of Christ. It is until we become as glorious as Him and as the precious stone to sit together with Him on the throne of Heaven.

Be watchful, if the Gentiles do not want to be used in the ministry of building the body of Christ, they will be used in the building of Babylon, that is the peak of evil and uncleanness, and will be destroyed forever.

The Gentiles must smartly use the mercy and chance from God, that is as small as the eye of a needle, to be used in the ministry of building the perfect body of Christ. Do not reject the encouragement from God to minister the building of the body of Christ, either through prayer, funding, or even joining it. If one keeps rejecting the encouragement from God, sometime he will not be able to minister the body of Christ.

The process of making the hard stone as the precious stone is as follows.

1. The hard stone becomes the living stone.

1 Peter 2:1-5

2:1 Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking,

2:2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,

2:3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

2:4 Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious,

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.

The process is as follows.

- Laying aside all sins or repenting, that is stopping sinning to return to God. We die to sins. It is started with laying aside five main sins, that is malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and evil speaking. We lay aside sins through confessing them to God and the others. If we are forgiven, we must not repeat them. Thus, the blood of Jesus from His pierced side will erase five main sins until there is no more trace.
- Being newly born from water and the Spirit, that is water and Holy Spirit baptism.

John 3:5

3:5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."

The true water baptism is one who has died to sins must be buried in water together with Jesus, to be raised together with Him to receive new life, that is Heavenly life.

1 Peter 3:20-21

3:20 who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while they

was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.

3:21 There is also an antitype which now saves us--baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

New life has good and pure conscience, as a baby who longs for the breast milk more than everything. Now, we long for the shepherding Word more than everything.

Deuteronomy 8:3

8:3 So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.

If God lets us be in lack or problems, He wants us to realize that we live from the shepherding Word (manna from Heaven).

Romans 8:15

8:15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

Holy Spirit baptism results in new life, that is renewal from the flesh man to the spiritual one who is obedient.

1 Peter 1:22

1:22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,

If we are obedient to the shepherding Word, we will live in holiness so we can love one another sincerely, until we love the one who hates us. We can repay evil with good.

Ephesians 4:11-12

4:11 And He Himself gave some to beapostles, 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,

If we live in holiness and love one another, we will be equipped with the ministry and gifts of Holy Spirit. It equals to being appointed as the priests and kings, or the living stone that is used in the building of the perfect body of Christ.

Thus, the living stone is the priest and king, or the servant of God who lives in holiness, loves one another, and ministers God with faithfulness and fervency in spirit.

The living stone lives from the mercy of God or the true teaching Word, so we can live wherever, whenever, up to the eternal lives forever.

Deuteronomy 32:45-47

32:45 Moses finished speaking all these words to all Israel,

32:46 and he said to them: "Set your hearts on all the words which I testify among you today, which you shall command your children to be careful to observe--all the words of this law.

32:47 For it is not a futile thing for you, because it is your life, and by this word you shall prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess."

The living stone is also called as the beautiful stone. After becoming the servant of God who lives in holiness, loves one another, and ministers Him with faithfulness and fervency in spirit, our life will be beautified by God.

2. The living stone becomes the precious stone.

Malachi 3:1-4

3:1 "Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," Says the Lord of hosts.

3:2 "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire And like launderers' soap.

3:3 He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the Lord An offering in righteousness.

3:4 "Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem Will be pleasant to the Lord, As in the days of old, As in former years.

Jesus as the High Priest always inspects the house of God to process the living stone to become the precious one. The house of God refers to the Holy Place, that is the shepherding pen. In the Holy Place, there are three types of equipment that refer to perseverance in three main services as follows.

- Golden Candlestick refers to perseverance in General Service.
- Table of Showbread refers to perseverance in Bible Study Service with Holy Communion.
- Golden Altar of Incense refers to perseverance in Prayer Service.

Jesus sits in the house of God. We must also sit, meaning being firm in the shepherding pen.

Jesus processes the living stone to become the precious stone through two things, that is through the launderers' soap and the refiner's fire.

The launderers' soap refers to the Word that is repeated to sanctify the tunic of ministry from stains.

Matthew 25:24-26

25:24 "Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed.

25:25 And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.'

25:26 "But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed.

We are sanctified from the stain of wickedness and laziness. The stain of laziness means being unfaithful. The stain of wickedness means judging the other servant of God, even blaming God and the true teaching Word.

We are also sanctified from the stain of uncleanness. It is as Hophni and Phinehas who serve God but keep living in uncleanness.

The refiner's fire refers to the Word that is repeated to sanctify the rust within the heart, that is evil desire or the lust of money that causes stinginess and greediness. We are also sanctified from leprosy, that is self-truth.

2 Timothy 2:20-21

2:20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor.

2:21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

If we are willing to be sanctified from the stains in the cloth and the rust within the heart, we will become the pure silver and gold. We can survive to follow and serve God until the end line.

1 Peter 4:12-14

4:12 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you;

4:13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

4:14 If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.

The flame also refers to the fiery trial or temptations, that is flesh suffering without doing any sins or flesh suffering because of Jesus. It is so that we can get the Spirit of glory.

The usefulness of the Spirit of glory is as follows.

- Giving extra strength so we can be joyful in the midst of suffering. We always give thanks to God.
- Renewing us from the flesh man to the spiritual one as Jesus.

Revelation 21:11

21:11 having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.

We appear as the jasper stone that is clear as crystal, that is being honest and believing God. We are honest in the matter of the true teaching Word and in all matters. Thus, physical miracle will also happen.

Mark 9:21-24

9:21 So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood.

9:22 And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything,

have compassion on us and help us."

9:23 Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."

9:24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

The epilepsy refers to moral degradation, falling in sins concerning eating-drinking and marrying-being given in marriage, broken marriage, suffering, tears, impossibilities, and perdition.

Being honest and believing equals to stretching both our hands to God. We cry out to Him. Thus, He will also stretch His hands to help us. He will make us as the precious stone who is worthy to sit together with Him on the throne of Heaven forever.

God blesses us.