

General Service in Malang, July 26, 2020 (Sunday Morning)

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

Revelation 11:15-19 is about the seventh trumpet sound or the last one.

Revelation 11:15-17

11:15. *Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"*

11:16. *And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God,*

11:17. *saying: "We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because You have taken Your great power and reigned."*

The seventh trumpet shows Jesus, who will come a second time on the glorious clouds in the glory as the King of all kings and the Heavenly Bridegroom for establishing or restoring the heavenly kingdom in the world, namely the One-Thousand-Year Kingdom of Peace (the upcoming Paradise) and the heavenly kingdom or the eternal New Jerusalem.

The yearning of God for establishing the heavenly kingdom in the world is shown by praying and teaching the Lord's Prayer. The emphasis is in the sentence 'Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven'.

Matthew 6:9-10

6:9. *"In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.*

6:10. *Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.*

If we long for the heavenly kingdom in the world up to the New Jerusalem, we will pray like Jesus.

'Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven' means that we must do the will of God regardless of anything that happens in our life in the world.

One of the wills of God is believing in Jesus whom He sends. It is the same as totally trusting and committing our life to Jesus as the messenger of the LORD.

John 6:29

6:29. *Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."*

If we do the will of God, namely trusting and committing ourselves to Him, the heavenly kingdom in the world will not only become the prayer, but also the fact in our life like the experience of a criminal who is crucified with Jesus.

The criminal refers to one who sins up to the peak.

Luke 23:39-43

23:39. *Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us."*

23:40. *But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation?"*

23:41. *"And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong."*

23:42. *Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."*

23:43. *And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."*

'this Man has done nothing wrong' means that he believes that Jesus is not a sinner.

'Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom' is the prayer of a the criminal because he believes that Jesus will come again.

There are two kinds of sinner as follows:

1. **The first criminal** in verse 39. He has a desire to be saved and enter into heaven, but unfortunately he doubts Jesus, so he keeps on hardening his heart. He keeps on sinning; even he suffers and almost dies. It means that he is outside the will of God. The will of God is that the salvation is just in Jesus. We can enter into heaven or Paradise by Jesus only.

Acts 4:12

4:12. *"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*

The criminal does not believe in Jesus, so he experiences the punishment of God. He is not saved but destroyed forever. He experiences the punishment since he lives in the world. There is no the atmosphere of Paradise.

John 3:18

3:18. "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Be watchful! One still cannot be saved even though he has believed and hoped Jesus because he ministers to Him just for looking for the physical thing by legalizing all ways. He does not look for the true teaching word or the purification one. His destiny will be the same as the first criminal who hardens his heart. Consequently, he will be punished.

1 Corinthians 15:19

15:19. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

2. **The second criminal.** He refers to the sinner who is able to become gentle especially in the suffering and almost dying, so he totally trusts and commits himself to Jesus.

Luke 23:40-43

23:40. But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation?"

23:41. "And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong."

23:42. Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."

23:43. And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

The second criminal trusts and commits himself to Jesus as follows:

- Trusting and committing himself to Jesus as the Savior to save the sinners.
The fact found in it is confessing sin to God and others honestly. Do not sin anymore after being forgiven! It is the same as receiving God's mercy.
Not sinning anymore is the same as living in righteousness or in the will of God, so he is saved and not punished.
- In verse 42, he trusts and commits himself to Jesus as the King of kings and Heavenly Bridegroom who will come a second time to perfect the saved people through the Bride Tidings to become the heavenly bride. Further, the heavenly bride will be lifted up to the glorious clouds. We enter into the marriage supper of the Lamb. We return to the One-Thousand-Year Kingdom of Peace (the upcoming Paradise) until we enter into the New Jerusalem.

The fact of receiving Jesus as the King is receiving the Bride Tidings or hearing and obeying it. It is the same as receiving God's mercy and we will experience the purification of our whole life continuously up to perfection like Jesus, so we are worthy to return to Paradise, the heavenly kingdom in the world.

If we are purified, today we will experience the atmosphere of Paradise until we enter into the Paradise, the heavenly kingdom in the world.

Right after the second criminal dies; he has been saved as well as received the Paradise and the kingdom of heaven. It is the special way.

There are lessons for us as follows:

1. We must fight to be saved, so from now on we have the assurance of having place in Paradise. Do not wait until we almost die! Indeed we may, but we must remember that there are the first criminal and the second one. The first one hardens his heart, and the second one becomes gentle.
2. God allows us to experience suffering and difficulty even we almost die, so we can become gentle and receive the will of God whatever we have to sacrifice, namely totally trusting and committing ourselves to Him, and leaving the sin. We will be saved. We are happy up to the Paradise.

Do not be hard-hearted about school, work, mate, *et cetera!* When we return to the will and mercy of God although it contradicts the will of the flesh, we will be helped and saved, so we are happy.

If we keep the hard heart, we will surely suffer. All things become barren up to perdition forever.

Be watchful! One who has been saved and become the servant of God will be in the will and mercy of God. But if he goes out

because of following his own will and chasing the physical thing which is in line with the lust of the flesh, not the will of God, he will suffer up to perdition forever.

For example, Judas Iscariot follows the will of money until he becomes stingy and greedy. He is angry when others sacrifice. It is impossible for him to sacrifice. It happens many times.

Peter becomes a fisherman after becoming a fisher of men. But, he is still able to be helped.

The story about the first criminal and the second one are the prophecy that has happened in the church in the first rain. It will surely happen in the church in the last rain or our age. We must be careful.

The examples are as follows:

1. The first criminal refers to Judas Iscariot who is hard heart. He keeps the will of money, so he rejects God's mercy and will. He does not believe in Jesus, but money, so he is destroyed forever.

On the last days, the thing that is stolen is not the money but God's trust to a shepherd to receive the tithe. Consequently, there is no food in the congregation. The congregation will experience spiritual dryness up to perdition. In the past time, only Judas died. But, on the last days, the congregation is destroyed.

2. The second criminal refers to Saul who becomes Paul.

Acts 9:1-2

9:1. Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest

9:2. and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

Saul ministers but his ministry is out of the will of God. He does not believe in Jesus as the Savior and King. He rejects the gospel of salvation and the Bride Tidings. It is the same as having no faith.

Consequently, he appears like a criminal. It means that he hates and hurts others physically and spiritually until killing them.

Now, many priests become the criminal.

If it continues, he will be destroyed like the first criminal.

Praise God. God allows Saul to suffer, and he can become gentle to receive God's mercy. It is the same as totally trusting and committing himself to Jesus as the Savior and King of kings. He becomes Paul the apostle who is used by God for the glory of His name.

Acts 9:8-9

9:8. Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.

9:9. And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

The steps of Saul's becoming Paul are as follows:

- Saul believes in Jesus as the Savior. The fact is that he dares to confess his sin to God and others; even he confesses that he is a sinner, of whom he is chief, so he receives God's mercy, namely forgiveness of sins from Jesus. He does not sin and judge others anymore. He can repent and enter into water baptism to receive a new life or life in righteousness, namely living by faith or God's will, so he is saved and used by God. He is not punished but becomes a pattern or witness to glorify God, namely bringing the Paradise to those who live for sin.

1 Timothy 1:13-16

1:13. although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

1:14. And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

1:15. This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

1:16. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.

Becoming a pattern of faith means living in righteousness and holding fast the true teaching word.

- Saul believes in Jesus as the King.
The fact is that he receives, does, and preaches the Bride Tidings, so he experiences the purification of whole life.

1 Timothy 1:17

1:17. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Acts 9:3

9:3. As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven.

'a light shone from heaven' refers to the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ or the Bride Tidings.

The purification starts from the heart, namely there are no evil desire, unclean desire, and bitterness.

Further, the words and deeds are holy, so he is lifted up to become Paul the apostle.

After being purified, one will be lifted up to become the priest.

A criminal becomes the priest and king, namely the inhabitant of Paradise or the citizens of the heavenly kingdom.

Ephesians 4:11-12

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,

Revelation 20:6

20:6. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

This is what we pray, namely: "I want to be in Your will" although it is painful for the flesh.

1 Timothy 1:12

1:12. And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry,

After being lifted up to become the priest and king, we must be faithful and trustworthy in the ministry from now on until the finish line.

We become the living stones that are used in the building of the perfect body of Christ.

The living stones mean that one can live anywhere, anytime, and in any circumstances by God's mercy up to eternal life.

- Worshipping Jesus as the King by saying: "Alleluia".

Worshipping Jesus as the King of kings means that we confess our weakness and infirmity physically and spiritually. We believe that the power of the King is able to take away impossibility.

Worshipping Him as the Bridegroom means that we submit and love Him more than anything. We do not demand anything but totally surrender to God.

The results are as follows:

- a. We experience the creation power from no way to there is a way for helping us, from nothing to something to take care of us, and the dead becomes alive.

Isaiah 43:15-17

43:15. I am the LORD, your Holy One, The Creator of Israel, your King."

43:16. Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea And a path through the mighty waters,

43:17. Who brings forth the chariot and horse, The army and the power (They shall lie down together, they shall not rise; They are extinguished, they are quenched like a wick):

The King is able to open a path through the mighty waters.

At that moment, the Israelites were powerless. They were like a bruised reed or the smoking flax. They could not go to the front, back, left, and right. There was no hope. Just one word: Dead!

May be our condition is like the Israelites but we still have the King.

The important thing is that we surrender all and submit all to God. Let the King handle for us.

The King is able to give miraculous caring and the way out of all problems. He also gives us beautiful and successful future although we are now like the bruised reed and the smoking flax.

Pharaoh is great, but he is not in the will of God, so he dies.

On the contrary, the Israelites are just slaves. There is no hope, but God is able to help. Do not doubt to God!

- b. The king is able to open a path through heavens.

Zechariah 14:17-18

14:17. And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, on them there will be no rain.

14:18. If the family of Egypt will not come up and enter in, they shall have no rain; they shall receive the plague with which the LORD strikes the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

If we do not worship the King, we will experience the plague.

If we worship the King, we will experience the rain of Holy Spirit that purifies us.

Isaiah 6:5-7

6:5. So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts."

6:6. Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar.

6:7. And he touched my mouth with it, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged."

If the sin is burnt, we will experience the rain of Holy Spirit.

The unclean lips mean that the whole life is unclean. There is no hope spiritually. He is surely left when Jesus comes again.

But, if we can confess our sin to God and others honestly, the rain of Holy Spirit will purify us until we can be honest as well as speak good and true words. We become the witness. We worship the King and we do not stumble in words. It means that we are perfected.

If our mouth is perfect, the King will open the gate of Paradise.

Luke 23:43

23:43. And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

From now on, we feel the atmosphere of Paradise.

The King is able to do everything according to His will in His unlimited love.

All of us are in Paradise until we are truly perfect.

We are lifted up on the glorious clouds with saying: "*Alleluia*". The heavenly kingdom in the world becomes reality until we enter into Paradise.

God blesses us.