

General Service in Malang, March 10, 2019 (Sunday Morning)

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

Revelation 9:1-12

9:1 Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit.
9:2 And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit.
9:3 Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.
9:4 They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.
9:5 And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man.
9:6 In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.
9:7 The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men.
9:8 They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth.
9:9 And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle.
9:10 They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power was to hurt men five months.
9:11 And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon.
9:12 One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things.

Isaiah 14:12

14:12 "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!!

Lucifer, son of the morning fell from heaven to the earth and became Satan.

[Revelation 9:2-5] Satan was with the wicked and unclean spirits or locusts and scorpions to torment men with the sting of scorpions for five months.

Isaiah 14:13-15

14:13 For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north;
14:14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.
14:15 Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.

Why could Lucifer, the great star fall and become Satan?

1. The arrogance. He said "I will" five times. It means that he fought and resisted against the cross.
2. He disobeyed or rejected the word of God.

It is contradictory to Jesus.

Philippians 2:8

2:8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Jesus came from heaven, humbled Himself, and became obedient to the point of death on the cross. So, He was exalted and became the Bright and Morning Star.

Revelation 22:16

22:16 "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star."

The bright means never falling forever.

We must be careful because the star also refers to the servant of God.

Revelation 12:3-4

12:3 And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.

12:4 His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.

Actually, the arrogance and disobedience are the characteristics of Satan. But, they have already attacked the church of God, so a third of the stars of heaven are drawn and thrown to the earth by the tail of the dragon. The tail of the dragon refers to the false teachings (the ones which are not in line with the Bible) and the false worship, namely the love of money or stinginess and greediness. The tail of the dragon also refers to the sins up to the peak, namely the sins of eating-drinking and marrying-being given in marriage.

The example, Judas Iscariot was drawn by the tail of the dragon.

We must try to be the priests, God's servants and ministers, or the star that shines more and more brightly brighter until the second coming of Jesus on the glorious clouds to be with Him forever.

The process to be the star that shines more and more brightly is as follows:

1. Working out the salvation with fear and trembling to God or serving and ministering to Him according to the ministry which is entrusted by Him faithfully and with responsibility to Him.

Philippians 2:12-16

2:12 *Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;*

2:13 *for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.*

2:14 *Do all things without complaining and disputing,*

2:15 *that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,*

2:16 *holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.*

Being faithful and responsible and faithful and fervent in spirit mean that we do not want to be hindered until we cannot be hindered like a branch that attaches to the true vine or the donkey that is bound to the true vine. It means that we serve and minister to God in the shepherding system or the sheep and the shepherd always dwell in the shepherding pen to have the perseverance in doing three main services to God as follows:

- The Golden Candlestick refers to the General Service to get the fellowship with Holy Spirit God in the anointing and gifts of Holy Spirit. We are given drink.
- The Table of Showbread refers to the Bible Study Service and Holy Communion to get the fellowship with the Son of God in the true teaching word and sacrifice of Christ. We are fed so that our fellowship grows to the perfection, namely we are strong and do not fall.
- The Golden Altar of Incense refers to the Prayer Service to get the fellowship with Father God in His love. We breathe in His love up to the eternal life.

In the shepherding pen, our body, soul, and spirit attach to the trinity of God, so we can neither be touched by the trinity of Satan nor drawn by the tail of dragon. We experience the spiritual growth to produce the sweet fruit sooner or later. We never become a wild and naked donkey which is ridden by Satan. But, we are ridden by Jesus and used to glorify God. So, we are glorified by God and we will experience the amazing thing.

2. In the shepherding pen, we experience the intensive sanctification by the work of the true teaching word which is sharper than any two-edged sword.

Philippians 2:12-16

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John 15:3

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

The word which is spoken by Jesus Himself is through a verse that explains other verses in the Bible.

Genesis 49:11-12

49:11 Binding his donkey to the vine, And his donkey's colt to the choice vine, He washed his garments in wine, And his clothes in the blood of grapes.

49:12 His eyes are darker than wine, And his teeth whiter than milk.

The things which must be sanctified are as follows:

- The crooked heart.

Philippians 2:15

2:15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.

John 13:10-11

13:10 Jesus said to him, "He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you."

13:11 For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, "You are not all clean."

The crooked heart refers to the desire or the love of money which makes Judas stingy (not being able to give) and greedy (stealing the possession of God). It also refers to the desire of wickedness, uncleanness, and bitterness, namely envy and hatred without any causes.

Revelation 8:10-11

8:10 Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water.

8:11 The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.

The crooked heart is sanctified to become the sincere and straight one. We can be happier to give than to receive. We can also live in righteousness, holiness, and peace, and become the star that always shines.

- The sanctification of the tunic or the deeds to be right, holy, and good to become blessing. The cloth also refers to the ministry. We can minister to God in holiness and anointing.
- The sanctification of the eyes. The eyes only look and hope God. The eyes also only look at the field of God or we prioritize the service and minister to God more than anything.
- The sanctification of the teeth or mouth, so it does not murmur, gossip, and lie.

Philippians 2:14

2:14 Do all things without complaining and disputing.

If we are honest, we will be happy because Jesus is passing until we are perfect and do not stumble in words anymore, but we only shout for joy by saying "alleluia".

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.

Philippians 2:13

2:13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

If we are sanctified, God will give the will and pleasure.

The pleasure means that we willingly sacrifice everything to God like Jesus, who sacrificed His life on the cross.

The will means that we minister according to the will of God. It also means the effort. We try seriously to be able to serve and minister to God until the end line, namely we pass away or Jesus comes for the second time.

If we become the servant and the minister of God who are holy, faithful, and fervent in spirit, we will become the apple of His eye. It means that we are preserved, protected, defended, and loved by God.

3. Holding the word of life, the true teaching word which is sharper than any two-edged sword that we have testified and experienced in our life, or the word which is ingrained. It is the same as the star in its orbit.

Philippians 2:16

2:16 holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

It means that we do not give an opportunity to hear the other teaching or the one which is not in line with the Bible. We hold fast and obey the true teaching word until the flesh does not speak anymore. It is the same as stretching our hand and surrendering fully to God. So, there is the merciful hand of God that is stretched for us. He determines every step and beat of our heart, until we can say "I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

For example, Esther had no father or mother, but she followed the process of being the star as follows:

- Esther was in the shepherding pen.

Esther 2:3

2:3 "and let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, that they may gather all the beautiful young virgins to Shushan the citadel, into the women's quarters, under the custody of Hegai the king's eunuch, custodian of the women. And let beauty preparations be given them.

- She was sanctified inwardly and outwardly by the true teaching word or the sixty-six books in the Bible.

Esther 2:12

2:12 Each young woman's turn came to go in to King Ahasuerus after she had completed twelve months' preparation, according to the regulations for the women, for thus were the days of their preparation apportioned: six monthswith oil of myrrh, and six months with perfumes and preparations for beautifying women.

- Esther could obey the word of God until the flesh does not speak anymore and she stretched her hand to God. So, God stretched the golden stick to her.

The results are as follows:

- a. The golden stick or the merciful hand of God determines our life and death, every step of our life, and the future.
- b. The merciful hand of God performs everything that we cannot think.
- c. The merciful hand of God sanctifies and changes us to be perfect and worthy to welcome His second coming until we are in the New Jerusalem.

Revelation 21:15

21:15 And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall.

God blesses you.