

General Service in Malang, March 16, 2014 (Sunday Morning)

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

Revelation 1:9-20 is about the vision of John on Patmos island.

John the apostle was on Patmos island and experienced flesh suffering, not because of doing sins, but the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. As a result, he experienced some things as follows.

1. He can enter the true fellowship with God and the others.

Revelation 1:9

1:9 I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

2. He can hear and see a loud voice, as of a trumpet, that becomes two manifestations, that is seven golden lampstands (the perfect church of God) and Jesus in glory as the High Priest, King of kings, and Heavenly bridegroom.

Revelation 1:10-13

1:10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet,

1:11 saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, and the Beginning and the End." "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."

1:12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands,

1:13 and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.

ad. 2. Being able to hear and see a loud voice, as of a trumpet.

What is the meaning of the loud voice of the trumpet?

Luke 2:20

2:20 Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

It refers to the shepherding Word that contains the weight of the teaching Word that is true, hard, and sharper than any two-edged sword. It is trusted by God to a pastor to be preached to the congregation faithfully, in order, continually, and repetitively, so it can sanctify and renew the congregation until perfect as Jesus (appearing as the shining golden lampstand).

If our life, marriage, and ministry are marked with flesh suffering together with Jesus, we will be able to hear and see the loud voice of the trumpet or the true and sharp shepherding Word. We will be shepherded well and right, so everything becomes easy and light. Thus, we will receive three things as follows.

1. Sureness or firmness of our faith, so we are firm in the true teaching Word.

Philippians 3:1b-2

3:1b For me to write the same things to you is not tedious, but for you it is safe.

3:2 Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation!

If we are firm, we will not be pounced by dogs and wolves that refer to:

- The servant of God who does not work according to the ministry.
The example is a pastor who is unfaithful to feed his sheep. As a consequence, he will eat the sheep. Sheep must eat the shepherding Word. If they do not eat it, they will be eaten by wild beast.
- The servant of God who teaches false teaching that is not according to the Bible.

2. We can face the situation of the world in the last days that returns to the situation during the days of Sodom and Gomorrah.

2 Peter 2:7-9

2:7 and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked

2:8 (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)"

2:9 then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,

In the last days, the world will face the situations as follows.

- The peak of difficulties and problems, or the peak of chaos.
- The peak of sin, that is sin concerning eating-drinking (smoking, getting drunk, consuming drugs) and marrying-being given in marriage (sexuality sin with all its variety, free sex).
It must be remembered that from all the inhabitant of Sodom and Gomorrah, only three people are saved, that is Lot and his two daughters. His wife listens too much to the voice of the flesh, so she looks back.

Only the loud voice of the trumpet or the true and sharp shepherding Word, that is able to protect us from the situations of the last days as in Sodom and Gomorrah. The results are as follows.

- We experience peace and still in the middle of shakings in the last days. We also experience Heavenly joy that cannot be affected by anything.
If one is healed from his sickness, it is an ordinary matter. But if one who is still in his sickness and suffering persists in believing Jesus, it is an extraordinary matter.
If we are still and peaceful, everything will be easy and light.
- We keep living in righteousness and holiness until we are perfect as Jesus.

3. We can see the real manifestation of the shepherding Word that is true and hard in our life.

Revelation 1:10-12

1:10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet,

1:11 saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, and the Beginning and the End." What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.

1:12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands,

There are two manifestations as follows.

- Seven shining golden lampstands. They refer to the congregations who experience sanctification and life renewal until they are perfect as Jesus.

What must be renewed?

Six physical sins and six spiritual sins. They equal to twelve sins that are ingrained in our life.

Colossians 3:5-7

3:5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: (1)fornication, (2)uncleanness, (3)passion, (4)evil desire, and (5)covetousness, which is (6)idolatry.

3:6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience,

3:7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

Colossians 3:8-9

3:8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: (1)anger, (2)wrath, (3)malice, (4)blasphemy, (5)filthy language out of your mouth.

3:9 Do not (6)lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,

We are sanctified until there are no more lies. We say "yes" for "yes" and "no" for "no".

The second sharpness of the sword is to renew our life. What must be renewed?

Colossians 3:10-14

3:10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, 3:11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

3:12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;

3:13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

3:14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

Whoever we are, if we are willing to be sanctified physically and spiritually, we will experience life renewal.

- Tender mercy means not judging sinful lives, also not agreeing them.
- Kindness means being generous and having a liking for giving.

- c. Humility means the ability to confess our sin. If we are forgiven, we must not do it anymore.
- d. Meekness means the ability to receive the Word no matter how hard it is.
- e. Longsuffering means being patient in suffering (do not grumble, keep being grateful) and in waiting God's time (do not look for your own way out).
- f. Forgiving each other.
- g. Love that unites and perfects.

Thus, we will appear as the shining golden lampstand.

- o Jesus as the High Priest in glory.

Revelation 1:13

1:13 and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.

If we appear as the shining golden lampstand, Jesus Himself will appear alone in glory as the High Priest. He will stretch out His nail-pierced hands, that is the good and merciful hands, to all of us.

Psalm 136:1,4

*136:1 Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.
136:4 To Him who alone does great wonders, For His mercy endures forever;*

Jesus alone stretches out His good and merciful hands to do great wonders that is greater than all our sins and problems.

The results are as follows.

- a. Jesus alone creates the things that do not exist yet. He cares our life. He alone also makes a way in the middle of the sea, meaning giving us way out from every problem and providing us a beautiful future.

Psalm 136:5,13

*136:5 To Him who by wisdom made the heavens, For His mercy endures forever;
136:13 To Him who divided the Red Sea in two, For His mercy endures forever;*

- b. Jesus alone lifts Peter up and recovers him.

Matthew 14:23,30-32

*14:23 And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there.
14:30 But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"
14:31 And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"
14:32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.*

Peter is a great servant of God but he can sink. Therefore, we must not prioritize our own strength. We must believe in one true teaching Word and His power. As a result, Peter experiences lifting power from failure to success. God uses him for His glory.

- c. Jesus alone is able to help us.

John 8:1-4,9,11

*8:1 But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.
8:2 Now early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them.
8:3 Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst,
8:4 they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act.
8:9 Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.
8:11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."*

This woman is in fear, shame, worry, and failure. She has a broken marriage. Jesus alone is able to help her. The good and merciful hands of God are able to justify, sanctify, up to perfect us.

God blesses us.