

General Service in Malang, May 22, 2016 (Sunday Morning)

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

Revelation 4:1

4:1 After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."

In Patmos Island, John the apostle saw a door standing open in Heaven. It means that every servant of God gets chance to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, as Jesus who is lifted up to the Heaven and sits on the right side of the throne of Father God. If the door of Heaven is opened, all the doors in the world will also be opened for us.

While the door of Heaven is opened, all of us must be watchful since many servants of God face closed door of Heaven, so they will be destroyed forever. It is experienced by five foolish virgins.

Matthew 25:10-13

25:10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.

25:11 "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!'

25:12 But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.'

25:13 "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

Why does one who has served face the closed door of Heaven?

1 Corinthians 1:18

1:18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Because of rejecting the cross, so he does not have Holy Spirit as oil for supply.

The practices of rejecting the cross are as follows.

- a. Becoming the enemies of the cross.

Philippians 3:18-19

3:18 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:

3:19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame--who set their mind on earthly things.

It refers to the servants of God who minister with aiming for the physical matters. They prioritize physical matters without sanctification. The consequence is keeping living in sins up to the peak of sins, that is sins concerning eating-drinking (smoking, getting drunk, consuming drugs) and marrying-being given in marriage (sexuality sin with all its variety, sexual deviation, wrong marriage).

- b. Being unwilling to take up the cross.

Matthew 16:21-24

16:21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.

16:22 Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!"

16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

It means that one is unwilling to experience flesh suffering with Jesus, so he does not experience life renewal but keeping being flesh man with egoistic character, lying, hating, and being as Satan.

Peter is a great servant of God, but he can become as Satan. We must be watchful.

The consequence of rejecting the cross is being rejected by God, so he is destroyed forever and the door of Heaven is closed.

Matthew 25:13

25:13 "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

We must be watchful always as the five wise virgins, meaning being willing to take up the cross with Jesus.

Why must we take up the cross with Jesus?

1. It is so that we can stop sinning and live in righteousness and holiness according to the will of God.

1 Peter 4:1-2

4:1 Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,

4:2 that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

2. Because the cross results in glory.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.

4:17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,

4:18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

The cross is a light and short flesh suffering that will result in great and eternal glory, that is life renewal from the flesh man to the spiritual one as Jesus.

The practices are as follows.

- a. [2 Corinthians 4:18] The flesh sight is renewed to the spiritual one, that is prioritizing God more than everything.
- b. [2 Corinthians 4:16] Being strong and of good courage, not losing heart.
Being strong and of good courage means as follows.
 - Holding fast the true teaching Word and being obedient whatever the risks are. It equals to seeing God. We are not wavered by the other teachings.
 - Keeping living in righteousness and increasing in it, as well as being unwilling to do sins whatever the risks are.
 - Not being disappointed or desperate, not losing heart in facing anything. Also not being proud of something. We always give thanks to God.

Being disappointed or desperate and losing heart attack three major places. The first one is within marriage. If one is losing heart within marriage, it will lead to destruction starting from having affair with the others, fight, violence, *et cetera*. We must keep the righteousness, holiness, and unity of marriage. The second place is within ministry, when one is being unfaithful even leaving the ministry to God. The third place is in facing oppression or trial. One looks for his own way out that is outside the truth of the Word of God. During trial, we must keep our hope to God.

Losing heart equals to being as a tasteless salt, meaning without Holy Spirit, without oil for supply. It cannot prevent rotteness, starting from being gnawed by the viruses of sins, the worm of sins, until being rotten in the hell where the worm does not die. We must struggle to take up the cross so we are strong and of good courage.

The practice of taking up the cross is through praying and worshiping God, added with fasting prayer, all night long prayer, as well as suffering to be able to minister God, suffering because of being slandered. It will hasten the process of life renewal, so we become new man who is strong and of good courage. It equals to being overflowed with Holy Spirit and becoming the salty salt.

Ephesians 3:16

3:16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,

The usefulness of Holy Spirit is as follows.

1. Holy Spirit sanctifies the Gentiles who are as the dog and swine, so we can live in righteousness and holiness. We can offer a sweet smelling aroma before God.

Romans 15:16

15:16 that I might be a minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

2. Holy Spirit is the Comforter, who gives us extra strength to face difficulties, sadness, and hatred without any reasons in this world.

John 15:25-27

15:25 But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, 'They hated Me without a cause.'

15:26 "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.

15:27 And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

We are not disappointed. We do not mumble or repay, but we testify to the world. It equals to being as the salty salt that gives nice taste to the others.

3. Holy Spirit keeps renewing our life, until we become as perfect and glorious as God.

Titus 3:5

3:5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

The proof of being renewed by Holy Spirit is the salty salt must dissolve, meaning being willing to sacrifice to be used by God in the revival of Holy Spirit in the last rain or the revival of building the perfect body of Christ.

Holy Spirit is the Helper, meaning Holy Spirit will help us. Our life will be cared and there is a beautiful future.

When Jesus comes for the second time, we will be renewed as glorious as Him. We become the bride who is ready to welcome His second coming on the glorious clouds.

God blesses us.