

General Service in Malang, November 08, 2020 (Sunday Morning)

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

Revelation 12:2

12:2. Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.

'being with child' means that the church conceives the spiritual or eternal things which are also the quality as follows:

1. The golden pot that had the manna = the Word or permanent faith. It is the same as the faith and its work.
2. Aaron's rod which budded, bloomed, and yielded fruits = the permanent hope or Holy Spirit. It is the same as the hope and its work or holiness.
3. The two tablets of stone = the permanent love. It is the same as the love and its work.

This is the quality of the church, so the church can endure facing the wind and waves in the midst of the sea of the world as well as the second coming of Jesus. We are with Him forever.

Such contents are found in the sheepfold or the Holy Place, namely the perseverance in doing the three main services to God as follows:

1. The Table of Showbread = the perseverance in doing the Bible Study Service with the Holy Communion to get the fellowship with the Son of God in the teaching Word and the sacrifice of Christ.
It will result in the faith and its work (the golden pot that had the manna).
2. The Golden Candlestick = the perseverance in doing the General Service to get the fellowship with Holy Spirit God in the anointing and gifts.
It will result in the hope and holiness (Aaron's rod which budded, bloomed, and yielded fruits).
3. The Golden Altar of Incense = the perseverance in doing the General Service to get the fellowship with Father God in His love.
It will result in the perfect love (the two tablets of stone).

Not being shepherded, our life will have no content. It is dangerous.

If the church is not shepherded, there will be the other content, namely the seed of the viper.

Isaiah 59:1-5

59:1. Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear.

59:2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.

59:3 For your hands are defiled with blood, And your fingers with iniquity; Your lips have spoken lies, Your tongue has muttered perversity.

59:4 No one calls for justice, Nor does any plead for truth. They trust in empty words and speak lies; They conceive evil and bring forth iniquity.

59:5 They hatch vipers' eggs and weave the spider's web; He who eats of their eggs dies, And from that which is crushed a viper breaks out.

'No one calls for justice, Nor does any plead for truth' = seeking for reasons for blaming at others.

The seed of the viper refers to the seed of sins up to lies.

Conceiving the seed of the viper, one will be the brood of vipers which gets the curses and perdition.

The church may also become the brood of viper now.

Matthew 3:7-9

3:7. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

3:8 "Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance,

3:9 "and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.

'the Pharisees and Sadducees' = the chosen people of God or the descendants of Abraham may also become the brood of vipers.

One the contrary, the Gentiles who are truly the brood of vipers or the hard stones can become the descendants of Abraham through believing Jesus, repenting, and being baptized in the true water baptism. Such things will determine the content of the conceiving of the church.

Repenting = stopping sinning and returning to God or being dead to sin.

The true faith becomes the brake to make us not commit any sins.

The true water baptism means that one who has believed in Jesus and repented or died to sin must be buried in water with Jesus and raised from water with Him to get the new or heavenly life, namely the good conscience. This is the place of the heavenly seed, namely the Word, Holy Spirit, and love or the faith, hope, and love.

If the conscience is good, one will easily shepherd or be shepherded.

The water baptism is not a symbol, but it determines whether we become the descendants of Abraham or the vipers.

Acts 28:2-3

28:2. And the natives showed us unusual kindness; for they kindled a fire and made us all welcome, because of the rain that was falling and because of the cold.

28:3 But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat, and fastened on his hand.

There are two things about the vipers which we must know as follows:

- The vipers actively move in the winter of the end of time.
The target is ones whose love becomes cold or ones who do not love God. They are neither obedient nor faithful. They also do not love others, starting from the marriage. If it continues, they will repay evil for good like Satan.

Being the target of the vipers already, one will not easily receive the seed of the Word until the faith is used up. Be careful!
Do not hate one another in the sheepfold!

- The vipers hide themselves in the branches.
The branch refers to the fleshly man or the sinful activities.
Keeping sins, there is no seed of the Word, but of the vipers.

What is the content of the fleshly man? The content is the five main sins where the vipers dwell.

1 Peter 2:1

2:1. Therefore, laying aside all malice⁽¹⁾, all deceit⁽²⁾, hypocrisy⁽³⁾, envy⁽⁴⁾, and all evil speaking⁽⁵⁾,

The malice refers to the root of evil or the love of money, so there is no love to God and others. This is the beginning of the seed of the viper.

The envy refers to the jealousy and hatred up to the hatred without a cause. The righteous are hated, but the wrong are pleaded like the brothers of Joseph towards Joseph.

The evil speaking refers to the slander or the right thing is made wrong and vice versa up to the blasphemy. The true teachings are said false and vice versa. This is the fruit of sin, namely the death. Such life truly becomes the brood of viper which is in curse and perdition.

Therefore, Jesus willingly dies on the cross with the five main wounds for setting us free from the five places where the vipers grow. He dies for crushing the head of the serpent.

The viper fastened the hand of Paul with the following consequences:

1. Swelling up.

Acts 28:5-6

28:5. But he shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm.

28:6 However, they were expecting that he would swell up suddenly fall down dead. But after they had looked for a long time and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god.

It means the arrogance (the heart swells up).

The fact found in it is despising the true Word.

Numbers 21:4-6

21:4. Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became very discouraged on the way.

21:5 And the people spoke against God and against Moses: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread."

21:6 So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died.

'the soul of the people became very discouraged' = the heart swells up.

'our soul loathes this worthless bread' = loathing the shepherding Word or the true teaching Word which is repeated especially to point at sins.

Being arrogant, one will reject the Word. He gets angry when he is rebuked and advised about the sins.

Being humble, one will make efforts to be set free from sins.

Why does the heart swell up? It happens because of keeping the sins up to the peak until rejecting the true teaching Word. Where the branches are kept, there the viper hides itself. Such life lives according to the voice of his own heart, not God's. Consequently, his life cannot be controlled anymore. The greater he is, the greater the destruction is.

The head or mind can also swell up, namely being proud easily when receiving the praise, but also being disappointed easily when being despised. It is the same as the spiritual death.

Having the seed of the Word, Holy Spirit, and love, we will always give thanks regardless of anything that happens to us.

2. Dysentery and fever.

Acts 28:8

28:8. And it happened that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and dysentery. Paul went in to him and prayed, and he laid his hands on him and healed him.

- Dysentery is a kind of stomachache.

It means that the stomach is bitten by the viper.

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.

'whose god is their belly' means that one cannot be controlled in the life, ministry, marriage, job, and so on. It is the same as rejecting the cross, namely choosing the comfortable thing for the flesh although it is not in line with God.

The facts found in rejecting the cross are as follows:

- a. Setting the mind only on earthly things.
- b. Keeping the sins up to the peak ('whose glory is in their shame').
The main problem of men is sin. Formerly, men fell from garden Eden because of sin. It must be paid attention to nowadays. Do not remain in the curse of sin!
- c. Keeping the fleshly man with all of the lusts, desires, and characteristic, so there is no renewal towards the spiritual man.
If Jesus had not been crucified, He would not have risen in the glory.
There is no life renewal without the cross.

For example, the god of Judas Iscariot was his belly. He kept the lust of money and theft although Jesus Himself had warned him repetitively.

Consequently, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out. His content was really rotten and he was ashamed and destroyed forever.

Acts 1:18

1:18. (Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out.

Following Jesus only to seek for the physical things, one may get the things, but they will be in vain. Judas received the money, but only for buying the field of the grave.

Let us pursue the Word and other things will automatically come.

- Being in fever= neither being hot nor cool.
Not being hot = there is no heat of sanctification, so there are no holiness and faithfulness.
Not being cold = not experiencing the peace, but envy and hatred.

Neither being hot nor cold = being lukewarm like the church of the Laodiceans. It means living according to his own feelings without caring about God's and others'.

The church of the Laodiceans felt rich, great, useful in God, and so on, but actually they were poor. This is the lukewarm condition which is not willing to be controlled by the Head.

Be careful! Many people feel painful although actually they themselves hurt others.
It often happens in the marriage and shepherding.

Matthew 8:14-15

8:14. Now when Jesus had come into Peter's house, He saw his wife's mother lying sick with a fever.

8:15 So He touched her hand, and the fever left her. And she arose and served them.

One cannot serve when he is in fever like the mother of Peter's wife.

She refers to one who is used for preparing the wife for Peter. It means that she refers to the servants of God in the Bride Tidings who prepare the heavenly bride.

The mother of Peter's wife refers to the servants of God who have been so long in the Bride Tidings and testified it, but now they are in fever in the Bride Tidings. It means that they have been bitten by the vipers.

Being in fever in the true ordination means decreasing in the service, ministry, and worship to God as well as not returning the tithes to God and not giving to others.

The fever means that there is infection or something which is wrong in the marriage, children, ministry, job, or debt.
If it continues, there will be the curse and everlasting perdition.

Let us come to God!

The solution is through '*with a word and He touched her hand*'

Matthew 8:15-17

8:15. So He touched her hand, and the fever left her. And she arose and served them.

8:16 When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick,

8:17 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "He Himself took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses."

1. As for God, He says '*It is done*', so He stretches out His hands to us. His merciful hands come to us.
2. As for us, we must also say a word, namely '*Forgive me, Lord!*' It is the same as saying '*Alleluia.*'
We cry out and stretch our hands to God. We cry out and surrender to Him, hand to hand, heart to heart, and mouth to mouth.

The faith which is added with the mercy will create miracle. All unfinished things are finished by the Lord on the cross.

Someday, the power of God sanctifies and renews us until we are perfect and worthy to welcome His coming. We enter the New Jerusalem forever.

Revelation 21:5-6

21:5. Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

21:6 And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.

God blesses you.