

General Service in Malang, November 20, 2016 (Sunday Morning)

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

Revelation 4:8a

4:8 The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within....

The four living creatures, each having six wings, refer to the six days when God worked. On the seventh day, God stopped working and sanctified it as the Sabbath day.

2 Peter 3:8

3:8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

One day = a thousand years. Six days = six thousand years, that refer to the three ages when God is working in the world, so there is lifting up of men to the throne of Heaven. The four living creatures refer to Enoch, Moses, Elijah, and Lord Jesus. At last, all of us as the church of God will also be lifted up to the throne of Heaven when He comes a second time.

The six wings equal to three sets of wing. They refer to three types of God's covering as follows.

1. The covering of the wings of a hen.
2. The covering of the wings of a dove.
3. The covering of the wings of an eagle.

ad. 1. The covering of the wings of a hen.

Luke 13:34-35

13:34 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing!

13:35 See! Your house is left to you desolate; and assuredly, I say to you, you shall not see Me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' "

The covering of the wings of a hen refers to the protection and care from God.

No matter how great a man in this world is, he is just as a chick that is powerless to look for the daily needs. It is also powerless to face the enemies and danger. The main need of a chick is the covering of the wings of a hen. If there is God's covering, we will get everything.

Where can we get the covering of the wings of a hen?

The term "gather" means as follows.

- Not being scattered or walking around, meaning being shepherded.
- The fellowship or unity of the body of Christ, starting from within marriage, shepherding, inter-shepherding, up to the perfect body of Christ that is worthy to welcome His second coming.

Thus, we experience the covering of God's wings in the shepherding or the fellowship of the body of Christ.

The shepherding or the fellowship of the body of Christ is described as two things as follows.

- As a chick under the covering of the wings of its hen.
- As a branch that abides on the true vine.

The thing that must be noticed in the shepherding or the fellowship of the body of Christ is the hen or the vine must be true, that is Jesus or the true teaching Word. The true teaching Word has the signs as follows.

1. The Word that is written in the Holy Bible.
2. It is a revelation from God, meaning the secret of the Word is revealed through one verse explains the other verses in the Holy Bible.
3. It is dare to reveal about the true marriage, so it can reach the perfect one, that is the marriage supper of the Lamb of God when He comes a second time.
4. The Word that is practiced in our daily life.

If the vine or the hen is true, that is Jesus or the true teaching Word, the results are as follows.

- There will be sweet fruits, starting from sweet, good and right words, as well as the words that become blessings to the others.

- There is the covering of the wings of a hen. Jesus will be responsible to care our life now up to the eternal one forever.

Isaiah 30:1-3

30:1 "Woe to the rebellious children," says the Lord, "Who take counsel, but not of Me, And who devise plans, but not of My Spirit, That they may add sin to sin;

30:2 Who walk to go down to Egypt, And have not asked My advice, To strengthen themselves in the strength of Pharaoh, And to trust in the shadow of Egypt!

30:3 Therefore the strength of Pharaoh Shall be your shame, And trust in the shadow of Egypt Shall be your humiliation.

Be watchful, there is a wrong fellowship that even causes one to do more sins. The signs are as follows.

1. Without the true vine or hen, that is without the true teaching Word.
2. Relying on the physical matters.
3. Relying on men, not God.
4. Using worldly ways, including doing any illegal ones.

The wrong fellowship is called as the fellowship of dry branches. It is proved with dry words, that is lying, gossiping, slandering, *et cetera*, so the sins are added.

Luke 13:34

13:34 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing!

The term "how often" means as follows.

- A great longing and willingness of God for us so we can join the true fellowship and experience the covering of the wings of the hen.
- The teaching Word that is repeated is needed so we can be firm in the shepherding and grow spiritually up to perfection.

Unfortunately, the church of God does not want to enter the true shepherding or fellowship. Why?

1. The churches of God forget that their position is just as a powerless chick. They become proud of themselves. They suffer the "feeling" diseases as follows.

- a. Feeling capable.

Revelation 3:15-17

3:15 "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.

3:16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

3:17 Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'--and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked--

The churches of God put their hope to richness, smartness, or job, so they are spiritually lukewarm, neither cold nor hot. Not being cold means there is no coolness or peace. There are only evil, uncleanness, bitterness, worry, and fear. Not being hot means not being faithful and fervent in spirit in ministering God.

2 Timothy 3:1-5

3:1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:

3:2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

3:3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,

3:4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

3:5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

They keep becoming fleshly man with eighteen fleshly characters, until they become the same as antichrist. Their lives are as the vomit, that is being disgusting and unclean. They will be thrown away by God.

- b. Feeling being used by God.

Matthew 7:21-23

7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

7:22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'

7:23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

It means that the ministry looks great, but it is not according to the Holy Bible or the true teaching Word. The consequence is "depart from Me".

The measure of success in the ministry is obedience to the true teaching Word. It will open the door of Heaven.

c. Feeling right.

Luke 18:9,11,14

18:9 Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:

18:11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men-- extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector.

18:14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

They use their self truth, that is the truth outside the Word. They do not want to confess their sin, even they cover it by blaming the others and God or the true teaching Word.

2. The churches of God forget their hen.

We have physical parents (the Court), spiritual parents (the Holy Place), and Heavenly parents (the Most Holy Place).

The churches of God forget their hen because they are busy looking for their self-needs until they forget God. The consequence is they go farther from the hen. They live in fear, stress, worry, *et cetera*. The farther they go from the hen, the more danger they will face, until they will be destroyed forever.

If we choose the hen, it will hurt the flesh since we lose the fleshly desire and will, but we will get everything in this world up to the eternal life.

As the servants of God, we must become as the branches that abide on the true vine or as the chicks under the covering of the wings of the hen. We must be well and right shepherded. Thus, we will experience two things as follows.

1. Intensive and continuous sanctification, especially from the sins of Judas Iscariot.

Judas is an apostle, but he does not want to be shepherded. The sins of Judas are as follows.

- Being a thief, that is stealing the belongings of God (the tithes and special offering) and the others.
- Being a hypocrite. The words and deeds outside are not equal with what is inside the heart.
- Being a traitor, that is being unfaithful even leaving the ministry.
- Being a liar or an accuser, that is accusing the others and God or the true teaching Word.

2. We keep being faithful and fervent in spirit in the ministry until the end line.

If we are well and right shepherded, we will become the servants of God who are holy, faithful, and fervent in spirit.

Hebrews 1:7

1:7 And of the angels He says: "Who makes His angels spirits And His ministers a flame of fire."

Revelation 1:14

1:14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire;

The servants of God who are holy, faithful, and fervent in spirit are becoming the apple of His eyes.

Psalms 17:7-8

17:7 Show Your marvelous lovingkindness by Your right hand, O You who save those who trust in You From those who rise up against them.

17:8 Keep me as the apple of Your eye; Hide me under the shadow of Your wings,

The results are as follows.

1. The marvelous lovingkindness of God is able to care our lives in the midst of difficulties in this world that is as the wilderness, up to the eternal life forever.

The marvelous lovingkindness of God protects us so even one grain of sand cannot disturb us. We live in peace and serenity. Everything becomes easy and light.

2. The marvelous lovingkindness of God is able to make our life beautiful and successful, although we are in a limited situation in this world. The lovingkindness of God is unlimited.

Genesis 39:21,23

39:21 But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

39:23 The keeper of the prison did not look into anything that was under Joseph's authority, because the Lord was with him; and whatever he did, the Lord made it prosper.

3. The marvelous lovingkindness of God conducts the greatest miracle, that is renewing us from the fleshly man to the spiritual one as Jesus, until we become His perfect bride.

Hosea 2:19

2:19 "I will betroth you to Me forever; Yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and justice, in lovingkindness and mercy;

If spiritual miracle happens, the physical one will also happen. When the disciples failed to catch fishes, they confessed honestly to God. They also were obedient when God commanded them to cast the net in the afternoon. As a result, they experienced miracle and caught 153 fishes.

The last miracle is that we will be renewed to become as glorious as Him, and lifted up to the throne of Heaven forever.

God blesses us.