

General Service in Malang, November 22, 2015 (Sunday Morning)

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

Revelation 3:14-22 is about the church of the Laodiceans. They are the seventh church that refers to the congregation in the last days.

Revelation 3:16-18

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--

3:18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

The condition of the church of the Laodiceans or the congregation in the last days is lukewarm. Physically they are rich and have need of nothing. However, spiritually they are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.

Being wretched, miserable and poor equals to being empty spiritually.

Being blind equals to darkness.

Being naked means being mixed with sins, being without the form of righteousness and holiness.

Genesis 1:1-2

1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

1:2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

The spiritual condition of the church of the Laodiceans is as the earth before it was created. It could not be occupied by men. Likewise, one with lukewarm spiritual condition (being empty, within darkness, and mixed with sins) cannot be occupied by God. It means that Jesus is outside. The only things inside are the physical ones. The consequence is being vomited by God, meaning being useless, abominable, unclean, and separated from God forever.

Therefore, God rebukes, counsels, and chastens us so we buy the richness of the Heaven.

Revelation 3:18

3:18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

There are three types of the richness of the Heaven, that is gold refined in the fire, white garments, and anointing oil to grease the eyes.

We learn the first thing, that is gold refined in the fire.

1 Peter 1:6-7

1:6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,

1:7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

Gold refined in the fire refers to the permanent faith or perfect faith to welcome Jesus' second coming. In Tabernacle, it is represented by the golden pot that had the manna.

The process of the growth of faith to the perfect one is as follows.

1. True faith.

In Tabernacle, it is represented by the Gate.

Romans 10:17

10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

True faith comes by hearing the Word of God, the Word anointed by Holy Spirit. The steps are as follows.

- a. Holy Spirit anoints and helps us to hear the Word of God solemnly, until we can understand the Word. The Word is written in the forehead.

- b. Holy Spirit anoints and helps us to believe and be sure to the Word of God, so it becomes faith within our heart. The Word is written in our heart.

Hebrews 8:10-12

8:10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

8:11 None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.

8:12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

If the Word is written in the forehead and the heart, our sins are erased by God.

If our heart believes, our mouth will confess Jesus, meaning confessing sins to God (vertical) and the others (horizontal). If we are forgiven, we must not repeat the sins. We repent and live in righteousness. Thus, God will forgive and forget all our sins.

Proverbs 10:2-3

10:2 Treasures of wickedness profit nothing, ~~but~~ "But righteousness delivers from death.

10:3 The Lord will not allow the righteous soul to famish, ~~but~~ "But He casts away the desire of the wicked.

The result is not being destroyed, but being saved, blessed, and cared by God.

2. Holy faith or firm faith.

In Tabernacle, it is represented by the Table of Showbread.

There are twelve cakes on the Table of Showbread that are set in two rows, six in a row. They refer to 66 books in the Holy Bible that represent the true teaching Word. The bread refers to the body of Christ. The pouring offering refers to the blood of Christ.

Exodus 25:29

25:29 You shall make its dishes, its pans, its pitchers, and its bowls for pouring. You shall make them of pure gold.

In Tabernacle, the Table of Showbread refers to perseverance in Bible Study Service with Holy Communion. Through the perseverance, the true teaching Word is ingrained in our life, to oppose the devil that attacks our life.

1 Peter 5:8

5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

The devil that is like a lion attacks us with two ways as follows.

- a. Roar refers to temptation in every field.

The ten spies magnify temptation more than God. The consequence is losing heart, being desperate and disappointed, leaving God and the true teaching Word. One that is as the star becomes as the beast that has no mind and faith, and only lives following the flesh desire. The consequence is being destroyed forever.

Amos 3:7-8

3:7 Surely the Lord God does nothing, ~~but~~ "Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.

3:8 A lion has roared! ~~Who will not fear?~~ "Who will not fear? The Lord God has spoken! Who can but prophesy?

To face the roar of the devil, we must hear and obey the roar of the Lion of Judah, that is the true teaching Word sharper than any two-edged sword, so our faith is firm and strong to win over the temptations.

- b. Biting and devouring.

Amos 3:12

3:12 Thus says the Lord: "As a shepherd takes from the mouth of a lion ~~two legs or a piece of an ear,~~ "Two legs or a piece of an ear, So shall the children of Israel be taken out ~~who dwell in Samaria--~~ "Who dwell in Samaria-- In the corner of a bed and on the edge of a couch!

Lion bites two legs and a piece of an ear.

Two legs are for standing. If they are bitten, one will not be able to stand. Lion bites two legs so one is doubtful and has no firm stand to the true teaching Word. It will be continued with being paralyzed, that is not being active,

faithful, and fervent in spirit in the ministry, even leaving it. If he is paralyzed at the gate of the house of God, he will be paralyzed on bed, meaning falling in sin up to its peak, that is sin concerning eating-drinking and marrying-being given in marriage.

2 Timothy 4:3-4

4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;

4:4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

Lion bites the ear so one will turn away from the true teaching Word and open the ear to fables, false teaching, and gossips.

1 Timothy 4:1-2

4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

4:2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,

If one dares to hear the other teaching, he is marked with that teaching.

Proverbs 17:4

17:4 An evildoer gives heed to false lips; A liar listens eagerly to a spiteful tongue.

One who hears the other teaching is an evildoer and a liar.

Through the perseverance in the Bible Study Service with Holy Communion, Holy Spirit anoints us so we can be firm to hear, obey, and hold fast to the true teaching Word. We can be firm to reject false teaching. Thus, we will experience continuous sanctification, starting from our heart and thought, up to our whole life.

Mark 7:21-23

7:21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, (1)adulteries, (2)fornications, (3)murders,

7:22 (4)thefts, (5)covetousness, (6)wickedness, (7)deceit, (8)lewdness, (9)an evil eye, (10)blasphemy, (11)pride, (12)foolishness.

7:23 All these evil things come from within and defile a man."

From the evil heart and thought, proceed twelve evil and unclean desires that lead to Babylon.

Revelation 18:2

18:2 And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!"

Through Bible Study Service with Holy Communion, we experience the sanctification of our heart and thought from twelve evil and unclean desires, so we are filled with twelve loaves of the true teaching Word. It becomes a brake so we do not sin and can be perfect.

3. Pure or permanent or perfect faith.

In Tabernacle, it refers to the golden pot that had the manna.

Hebrews 9:4

9:4 which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant;

No matter how great a man in this world is, he is only as the clay pot that is easily broken and cracked. It will only be destroyed forever. The clay pot must be filled with manna from Heaven so it becomes the golden pot.

Psalms 78:23-25

78:23 Yet He had commanded the clouds above, And opened the doors of heaven,

78:24 Had rained down manna on them to eat, And given them of the bread of heaven.

78:25 Men ate angels' food; He sent them food to the full.

Manna is the angels' food, that is the shepherding Word.

In the past, the Israelites received manna from the Heaven every day. Now, we must eat the shepherding Word, that is the

true teaching Word entrusted by God to a pastor, to be preached to the congregation faithfully, continuously, and repetitively, to become food for them. The body needs foods, and so do the soul and spirit.

2 Corinthians 4:7-9

4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

4:8 We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;

4:9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed--

The clay pot must be filled with manna so we can overcome the sprinkling of blood, trial, and flesh suffering together with Jesus. Why must we experience the sprinkling of blood?

- a. It is so that our faith is increased to the pure or perfect faith, to be able to welcome Jesus' second coming.

1 Peter 1:6-7

1:6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,

1:7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

Revelation 21:21

21:21 The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

During facing the sprinkling of blood, we are exercising to walk on pure gold, like transparent glass, until we can walk in the New Jerusalem.

- b. It is so that we experience life renewal from the clay pot to the golden one, that is life renewal from the flesh man to the spiritual one.

2 Corinthians 4:10

4:10 always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.

It is started with being strong and of good courage, meaning as follows.

- Keeping holding fast to the true teaching Word whatever the risks are, until the end line.
- Keeping living in righteousness whatever the risks are, until the end line.
- Keeping being faithful and fervent in spirit in the ministry whatever the risks are, until the end line.
- Keeping worshiping God, keeping believing and putting our hope to God whatever the risks are, until the end line.

The examples are as follows.

- Moses faces deadlock because of the Red Sea in front, Pharaoh behind, and the wilderness on sides. Moses only stretches out his hands to God, and God stretches out His hands to divide the sea.
- A woman who has a flow of blood for twelve years refers to the destruction in marriage. With the faith "*If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well*", that is stretching out her hands to God, she is healed.
- Shadrach, Meshach, Abed-Nego face false worship to antichrist. But they keep worshiping God. The result is they are helped and glorified by God in this world up to the glorious clouds on His second coming.

God blesses us.