

General Service in Malang, November 30, 2014 (Sunday Morning)

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

Revelation 2-3 is about the seven times of the sprinkling of blood in front of the Ark of Covenant. It refers to the last sanctification to the seven churches of the Gentiles or the church in the last days, until they are perfect and blameless as Jesus.

The first congregation is the church of Ephesus.

The last sanctification to the church of Ephesus is they must return to the first love. If they lose it, the consequence is they will fall into the deep pit and the lampstand is taken from its place. It means living in darkness up to the darkest one in the hell forever.

Revelation 2:7

2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.

But if we are willing to be sanctified and return to the first love, the promise of God to the church of Ephesus is they will return to the Paradise to eat from the tree of life.

The spiritual food or the Word of God really decides whether we can experience the ambience of the Paradise in this world until we enter it on Jesus' second coming or not.

Genesis 2:8-9

2:8 The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed.

2:9 And out of the ground the Lord God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

There are three types of fruit from the tree of life in the Paradise. It equals to there are three types of spiritual food for us as follows.

1. The fruit of the tree that can be eaten freely.

Genesis 2:16

2:16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;

The word "freely" refers to the freedom in Holy Spirit.

The fruit of the tree that can be eaten freely refers to the Word in the anointing of Holy Spirit. It equals to the Word that we eat in the General Service (Golden Candlestick).

If we persevere in eating the Word of God and obey it, the Word will become a lamp in our life.

Psalms 119:105

119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

The Word becomes a lamp to our feet means we are not stumbled by the darkness of sin up to its peak, that is sin concerning eating-drinking and marrying-being given in a marriage. The strength of this world cannot beat the darkness of sin. Only the Word that can beat it.

The Word becomes a light to our path means we are not deceived by false teaching and gossips whose truth cannot be justified. Thus, we keep going towards the city of light that is the New Jerusalem.

2. The fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 2:9

2:9 And out of the ground the Lord God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

It refers to the Word that we eat in the Bible Study Service with Holy Communion (Table of Showbread), that is the true teaching Word that gives us deeper knowledge about Jesus. Thus, we do not only know Jesus as a good Father, a Physician, a Teacher, *et cetera*, but we know Him up to the peak as the Head and the Heavenly Bridegroom, the King of kings.

If we only know Jesus as a good Father who blesses us, there is a lost child. If we know Him as a Physician, we will leave Him when we are healed. But if we know Him as the Head, we will always need Him.

Psalms 119:11

119:11 Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.

We must persevere to eat the true teaching Word in the Bible Study Service with Holy Communion. It equals to hearing and obeying the true teaching Word. The results are as follows.

- The true teaching Word will increase our knowing to Jesus, until we know Him as the Heavenly Bridegroom. We will never be separated from Him but prioritize Him more than everything.
- The true teaching Word will be kept inside our heart, so it becomes a steadfast faith inside our heart. A steadfast faith is a brake so we do not sin whatever the risk is. Until one time we cannot sin anymore. We are holy as Jesus is holy.

3. The fruit of the tree of life.

Genesis 2:9

2:9 And out of the ground the Lord God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

It equals to the Word of God that we eat in the Prayer Service (Golden Altar of Incense). We must persevere in the Prayer Service so the Word that we eat becomes our blood and flesh. Thus, we will experience spiritual growth up to spiritual maturity, perfection, and being as glorious as Jesus. His characters become ours. The life of Jesus also becomes ours, that is eternal life forever.

Thus, to be able to return to the Paradise, we must persevere in three main services in the shepherding pen and eat the shepherding Word. It equals to being right and well shepherded.

If a sheep does not want to eat the shepherding Word in the shepherding pen, a wild beast will eat him. If a pastor or a shepherd does not want to feed the sheep in the shepherding pen (he always gives the chance to other people), he will eat the sheep. It must be remembered that a shepherd is wilder than a wild beast.

The results of being right and well shepherded are as follows.

1. The Great Shepherd feeds us sufficiently.

Proverbs 30:8-9

*30:8 Remove falsehood and lies far from me; Give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with the food allotted to me;
30:9 Lest I be full and deny You, And say, Who is the Lord? Or lest I be poor and steal, And profane the name of my God.*

Feeding us sufficiently means we are satisfied and healthy. We never lack of something even we live abundantly, so we always give thank and glorify God.

If the congregation is right and well shepherded, they do not need to look for money by doing illegal ways. If a pastor is right and well shepherded, he will not need to look for additional income.

2. The Great Shepherd keeps and protects us from distress, sin, false teaching, natural disaster, up to antichrist and the judgment of God.

John 10:1-3

10:1 Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

10:2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

10:3 To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

In the shepherding, we are led outside, meaning we are used in the revival of Holy Spirit in the last rain. It is the revival of building the perfect body of Christ that is started from within marriage, shepherding, inter-shepherding.

3. The Great Shepherd is able to lead us to beautiful and successful future. He is also able to lead us until we become perfect as Him and become the Heavenly bride.

Song of Solomon 2:16,1-2

2:16 My beloved is mine, and I am his. He feeds his flock among the lilies.

2:1 I am the rose of Sharon, And the lily of the valleys.

2:2 Like a lily among thorns, So is my love among the daughters.

Our position in the last days towards His second coming is as the lily of the valleys. We must not be afraid because He has descended to the valley of death and died on the cross, to beat the death and to stretch out His kind and merciful hands to lift up our life from any types of valley. There are some types of valley as follows.

- The valley of thorns, that is a confused mind, being stressed, having no peace and calm. The proof of being lifted up from the valley of thorns is having peace and calm, so everything becomes easy and light.
- The valley of Achor, that is the valley of difficulty, curse, and perdition.

Joshua 7:24-25

7:24 Then Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, the silver, the garment, the wedge of gold, his sons, his daughters, his oxen, his donkeys, his sheep, his tent, and all that he had, and they brought them to the Valley of Achor.

7:25 And Joshua said, "Why have you troubled us? The Lord will trouble you this day." So all Israel stoned him with stones; and they burned them with fire after they had stoned them with stones.

The proof of being lifted from the valley of Achor is impossible problem becomes possible.

- The valley of death. Physically, it refers to the disease that brings death. Spiritually, it refers to sin up to the peak of sin, that is sin concerning eating-drinking and marrying-being given in a marriage. It also refers to false teaching and evil company.

But Jesus as the Great Shepherd wants to lift us up from the valley of death, physically and spiritually, so we can live in righteousness. It is until the kind and merciful hands of God lift us up to the glorious clouds.

God blesses us.