

General Service in Malang, October 14, 2012 (Sunday Morning)

Peace and grace in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The whole Matthew 27 refers to the seven sprinklings of blood upon the Ark of the Covenant. It means the suffering Jesus experiences until He dies on the cross to save, purify, bless, and perfect us.

There are seven passages in it that refer to seven sufferings of Jesus.
We are studying the sixth in Matthew 27:57-61 about Jesus is buried.

Matthew 27:57-60

27:57 Now when evening had come, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus.

27:58 This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be given to him.

27:59 When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,

27:60 and laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed.

Jesus is buried to prove that He really dies.
We can learn two things from this passage.

1. So that we can tackle false teachings which state that it is Judas Iscariot (not Jesus) who dies, that Jesus is stolen, et cetera.
If Jesus had not died, there would have been no forgiveness for our sins and no salvation for us.
2. If God lets us, Christian lives, die, we must be buried as Jesus is buried.
When Jesus comes a second time, Christian lives who have passed away will be raised in glorious body.

Joseph from Arimathea asks for the body of Jesus and wraps it in a clean linen cloth.

A clean linen cloth denotes righteous and holy deeds, also good deeds. Both come from pure and good heart.

Genesis 6:5-6

6:5 Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

6:6 And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

Meanwhile, the fact we face is the heart of man is the store or the hiding place of sins, so that man tends to have evil and unclean deeds, that make God, pastor, and parents grieve. The consequence is evoking the judgment of God.

From where do we get pure and good conscience?

1. Through water baptism, we get good conscience that results in good deeds.

1 Peter 3:20-21

3:20 who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.

3:21 There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

2. Through the work of the Word which is sharper than any two-edged sword, we get pure conscience.

Hebrews 4:12-13

4:12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

4:13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

Mark 7:21-23

7:21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,

7:22 thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness.

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

If the sword of the Word of God purifies our heart from all evil and unclean desires, we will have pure conscience that results in righteous and holy deeds.

2 Corinthians 8:1-5

*8:1 Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia:
8:2 that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality.
8:3 For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing,
8:4 imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.
8:5 And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.*

Righteous, holy, and good deeds are started by giving for the ministry of the building of the body of Christ, that is the revival of Holy Spirit in the last rain.

The revival of the building of the body of Christ is started from within the marriage, shepherding, between shepherding, until the union of Israelites and Gentiles as one perfect body of Christ. We give our time, energy, thought, money, et cetera, until our whole body for God. We prioritize God more than everything.

Giving for the ministry of the building of the body of Christ does not depend on being rich or poor, having time or not, but it depends on pure and good conscience. If we have pure and good conscience, God will always open the way so we can give in the ministry of the building of the body of Christ.

Righteous, holy, and good deeds are the deeds according to the true teaching Word or the Holy Bible.

Revelation 19:7-8

*19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.
19:8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.*

Righteous, holy, and good deeds according to the Holy Bible will peak on the cloth of the bride of God at Jesus's second coming, that is the clean and bright fine linen.

The term "bright" means it shines from pure and good conscience.

Revelation 18:15-16

*18:15 The merchants of these things, who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing,
18:16 and saying, "Alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls!"*

Babylon also has the fine linen, but it is not bright because it does not come from pure and good conscience. It is just good deed that is done with purpose or certain intention. If they cannot get their aim, they will become evil and rude. Or after getting their aim, they will become evil and rude.

It happens especially in the environment of God's servant. For example is Judas Iscariot. When there is a woman who anoints Jesus's feet with fragrant oil, Judas says that it is a waste and better to give the money for the poor. He seems good, but not pure. At the end Judas becomes the most evil life since he sells Jesus his Shepherd for thirty pieces of silver.

1 Peter 3:3-5

*3:3 Do not let your adornment be merely outward "arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel"
3:4 rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.
3:5 For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands,*

The daily practices of having bright fine linen are as follows.

1. Being gentle, that is:

- The ability to receive the Word of God no matter how hard it is.
- Not being rude, not offending the others and not easily being offended.
- The ability to forgive the others' sin and forget it.

2. Being quiet or silent, that is:

- Not giving many comments, especially to the preaching of the Word of God.

- Introspecting ourselves, correcting ourselves through the preaching of the Word and right advices based on the Word.
- If we find sin, we must confess it to God and the others. If we are forgiven, we should not repeat it again.

3. Being submissive from within marriage.

For wife:

- Wife must submit to the husband in every matter, not teach or order him.
- Wife respects and cares the husband.
- Wife does not argue or resist the husband.

For husband:

- Husband loves the wife as loving himself. It means not being rude.
- Husband becomes the head, which gives the physical and spiritual flow to the wife and children.
- Husband decides everything according to the true teaching Word.
- Husband cares the wife and becomes wise, that is knowing the limit in deeds and words, not forcing his will outside the limit of the wife.

Wife and children should not become the head. If this happens, the serpent will become the head as experienced by Adam.

Children must be obedient and ease the burden of parents.

Submission is also within ministry, that is being obedient and faithful.

Being gentle, silent, and submissive means stretching out both our hands to God, and God will also stretch out His hands to us. We live within the hands of God and experience the unlimited power of God.

The results are as follows.

1. The hands of Great Shepherd are able to give guarantee of life assurance in the middle of impossibilities in this world, up to our future and eternal life.

John 10:27-28

10:27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

10:28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

2. We experience the helping and lifting power from God.

Hebrews 2:17-18

2:17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

2:18 For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

The Great Shepherd, the High Priest helps us to make possible all our impossible problems. And there will be lifting power from God.

Psalms 145:14

145:14 The Lord upholds all who fall, And raises up all who are bowed down.

Proverbs 24:16

24:16 For a righteous man may fall seven times And rise again, But the wicked shall fall by calamity.

David is raised from the fall and he is successful in His time.

3. We are within the hands of Jesus the Heavenly Bridegroom, so that we experience sanctification and renewal power.

Ephesians 5:25-27

5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

5:26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,

5:27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

We are renewed and sanctified little by little, until we are as glorious as Him and wear the bright fine linen.

God blesses us.