

General Service in Malang, October 26, 2014 (Sunday Morning)

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

Revelation 2-3 is about the seven sprinklings of blood in front of the Ark of Covenant. It refers to the last sanctification to the seven churches of the Gentiles. Now, it refers to the last sanctification to the congregation in the last days.

Revelation 2:1-7 is about the church of Ephesus.

God admits that the church of Ephesus has done many things, and He gives the rewards. But He also reproaches the church of Ephesus.

Revelation 2:4-5

2:4 Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.

2:5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place "unless you repent."

The church of Ephesus leaves the first love. Thus, the last sanctification is they must return to the first love.

The first love is God's love that is poured through the sacrifice of Christ or His cross.

Philippians 2:8

2:8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Jesus is obedient until He dies on the cross to give the first love. Actually He does not sin and does not need to die on the cross. But because He obeys Father, He dies on the cross to give the first love.

Thus, returning to the first love means being obedient to the Word of God until the flesh does not sound anymore.

John 14:15

14:15 If you love Me, keep My commandments.

The examples are Abraham must slaughter his only son and Mary must be pregnant without a husband. It sounds irrational, but there is the glory of God behind.

The facts from age to age show that men including the servants of God are disobedient to the Word of God.

1. The beginning age or the days of Father God (from Adam to Abraham) is represented by Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve disobey God and eat the forbidden fruit. The consequence is they are naked and live in curse.

2. The middle age or the days of the Son of God (from Abraham to Jesus' first coming) is represented by Peter.

John 21:3,7

21:3 Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We are going with you also." They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing.

21:7 Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea.

Peter uses too many logics so he disobeys God. The consequence is being in total failure and naked.

3. The last age or the days of Holy Spirit God (from Jesus' first coming to the second one).

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!"

Many servants of God look as being used and great, but actually their ministries are not according to the Word of God. God will not admit their works and will eject them. In the past, men were cast out from Garden Eden to the world. Being ejected from the world means going to the hell and being destroyed forever.

What is the cause of disobedience?

Romans 8:7

8:7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

It is caused by the carnal mind or the will of the flesh. It equals to self-desire. If there is self-desire, there will be self-interest and self-truth.

The example is King Herod who has self-desire for the wife of his brother, so he disobeys the Word.

How can we become obedient?

1. Through the true water baptism.

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,

In the past, Noah entered the ark according to the command from God. There were many other arks, but only one that saved.

Now, we must enter water baptism that is according to the command from God.

Romans 6:4

6:4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

The true water baptism is one who has repented and died to sins, must be buried together with Jesus in water. Afterward, he is raised together with Jesus to receive new life that has new conscience. It is the good and obedient conscience.

2. Worship prayer.

Mark 14:35-36

14:35 He went a little farther, and fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him.

14:36 And He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will."

Worship prayer is the process of tearing or crucifying the flesh with all its will, desire, truth, and interest, until it does not sound anymore. Thus, we can receive and obey the will of God whatever the risk is. We only cry out "Abba, Father". The result is God will be responsible for our life.

When one is disobedient, all the risks are born by himself up to the everlasting perdition.

The process of obeying the word of God is as follows.

1. Hearing the Word of God that is anointed by Holy Spirit.

Romans 10:17-21

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

10:18 But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed: "Their sound has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world."

10:19 But I say, did Israel not know? First Moses says: "I will provoke you to jealousy by those who are not a nation, I will move you to anger by a foolish nation."

10:20 But Isaiah is very bold and says: "I was found by those who did not seek Me; I was made manifest to those who did not ask for Me."

10:21 But to Israel he says: "All day long I have stretched out My hands to a disobedient and contrary people."

Holy Spirit encourages us to hear the Word solemnly and with a need, so we can delight in and enjoy the Word.

Psalms 119:92

119:92 Unless Your law had been my delight, I would then have perished in my affliction.

Whatever one does in a ministry, if he does not delight in the Word, he will suffer and die spiritually.

2. Responding the Word positively or accepting the Word.

Romans 10:19

10:19 But I say, did Israel not know? First Moses says: *“I will provoke you to jealousy by those who are not a nation, I will move you to anger by a foolish nation.”*

Holy Spirit also anoints our mind, so we can understand the Word.

Holy Spirit also anoints our heart, so we can believe the Word. It becomes faith in our heart.

Actually only the Israelites who have the right to receive the Word. Actually the Gentiles have no right to receive the Word. But because of negative response from the Israelites, there is an opened chance and the mercy of God for the Gentiles. The Gentiles are too arrogant if they do not want to receive the Word.

Acts 13:46-47

13:46 Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, *“It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles.”*

13:47 For so the Lord has commanded us: *“I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.”*

3. Practicing the Word of God, that is obeying the Word until the flesh does not sound anymore.

Holy Spirit is able to help and strengthen us so we can obey the Word whatever the risk is and although it does not agree with the will of the flesh and logic.

Being obedient equals to stretching out our hands to God and surrendering our life to Him. Thus, He will stretch out His powerful hands to us and miracle will happen.

The results are as follows.

- Physical miracle happens. The hands of God are stretched out to divide the Kolsom Sea. God is able to care our life miraculously. God is able to give us marvelous way out.

Exodus 14:16,21

14:16 But lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.

14:21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided.

- Spiritual miracle happens.

Mark 3:1,5

3:1 And He entered the synagogue again, and a man was there who had a withered hand.

3:5 And when He had looked around at them with anger, being grieved by the hardness of their hearts, He said to the man, *“Stretch out your hand.”* And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored as whole as the other.

A withered hand in the synagogue refers to being dry spiritually. It will cause dryness in marriage and finance. Spiritual death will lead to the second death in the everlasting hell.

God commands him to stretch out his hands. When he obeys the Word, miracle happens. The spirituality is recovered to righteous and holy life. The marriage life is also recovered.

- It is to face Jesus' second coming.

1 Peter 5:5-6

5:5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for *“God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”*

5:6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

God stretches out His hands to lift up and exalt us in His time.

God lifts us up means He renews us from the flesh man to become the spiritual one as Him, as renewing water to become wine. It is started with the renewal of the mouth that is used only to confess sins, bear witness, say good and right words, and worship Him. On Jesus' second coming, we only cry out *“Alleluia”*.

God exalts us means He uses us in the revival of building the perfect body of Christ or in the dissemination of Bride Tidings. God gives us beautiful and joyful future.

The more we are renewed, the more we are used, and the more beautiful our future is. When Jesus comes a second time, we will be renewed in the twinkling of an eye to become perfect as Jesus is. We will enter the marriage supper of the Lamb and enjoy the sweetest wine. It will be continued with entering the Paradise or the one thousand years

kingdom of peace, and the kingdom of Heaven forever.

God blesses us.