

General Service in Malang, September 16, 2012 (Sunday Morning)

Peace and grace in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 27:51-56 is about the miracles that happen when Jesus dies.

Behind sufferings and the death of Jesus on the cross, miracles happen. This is a lesson for us not to become desperate or disappointed in facing death experience, since there are miracles of God behind.

Matthew 27:51

27:51 Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split,

Miracles that happen when Jesus dies are as follows:

1. The veil of the temple is torn in two from top to bottom.
2. The earth quakes and the rocks are split, which denote a revival.
3. The graves are opened.

Matthew 27:52-53

27:52 and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised;

27:53 and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

The graves represent the death, the lengthening of the hand of death such as discotheque, movie theatre, etc. Unrighteous ministry with false teaching is also the lengthening of the hand of death. It has happened to the fellowship of prophets on the days of Elisha who ate wild gourds that contain death.

When Jesus dies, the graves are opened. It means that the death of Jesus aims to set us free from death.

There are three types of death as follows.

1. Physical death.
One who has died will be raised in glorious body on Jesus's second coming.
2. Spiritual death, that is being separated from God because one preserves sins up to the peak of sins, enjoys doing sins.
3. The second death in the hell forever.

Revelation 20:14

20:14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

1 Samuel 20:3

20:3 Then David took an oath again, and said, "Your father certainly knows that I have found favor in your eyes, and he has said, 'Do not let Jonathan know this, lest he be grieved.' But truly, as the Lord lives and as your soul lives, there is but a step between me and death."

There is only a step between us and death.

Jeremiah 9:21-22

9:21 For death has come through our windows, Has entered our palaces, To kill off the children "no longer to be outside! And the young men "no longer on the streets!

9:22 Speak, "Thus says the Lord: "Even the carcasses of men shall fall as refuse on the open field, Like cuttings after the harvester, And no one shall gather them."

Death works at every place (from the palace to the streets) and every age (from children to adults).

The target of death is throughout human's life as follows.

1. [Matthew 19:1-12] Death lies in wait for us since we are inside the womb through divorce and abortion.
2. [Matthew 19:13-15] Death lies in wait for children through obstructing them to come to God. Parents should not prevent children to come to God. And vice versa, children should not prevent their parents to come to God.
3. [Matthew 19:16-26] Death lies in wait for youth through temptation.
Temptation is in the form of evil desire, namely lust of money that makes one cannot follow Jesus. Also in the form of

unclean desire, namely eating-drinking sins (smoking, getting drunk, consuming drug) and marrying and being given in marriage sins (sexuality sin with all its variety).

4. [Matthew 19:27-30] Death lies in wait for adults through being unfaithful until leaving the ministry.

Matthew 19:30

19:30 But many who are first will be last, and the last first.

Fellowship is to excite our life so that we keep being fervent in spirit within ministry.

Jeremiah 9:23-24

9:23 Thus says the Lord: Let not the wise manglory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty manglory in his might, Nor let the rich manglory in his riches;

9:24 But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the Lord, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight, says the Lord.

Everything from this world (wisdom, richness, might, et cetera) cannot oppose death.

The advice from God is that we must know Him clearly, namely God who is exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, God who dies on the cross. Thus, we will be able to defeat the death.

Hebrews 8:10-11

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.

How can we know God clearly so we can defeat death?

It happens when the Word of God is written in our life, especially the Word that contains revival power.

John 5:24

5:24 Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

The Word that contains revival power is the Word spoken by Jesus himself, namely the Word whose secret is revealed. One verse is explained by another verse in the Bible.

Thus, we know God clearly when our life is written by the true teaching Word.

The process is as follows.

1. Listening the true teaching Word solemnly as a need, until we can understand it. The Word is written in our mind.
2. Believing and having faith on the true teaching Word. The Word is written in our heart and becomes faith. The Word that becomes faith will never be forgotten.
3. Practicing the true teaching Word. The Word is written in our whole life, becomes the flesh and blood in our life. Opposing the Word means never knowing God, assuming that God does not exist. Practicing the Word means knowing God clearly. Bible Study Service with Holy Communion is to accelerate the Word to become the flesh and blood in our life, and we will know God more clearly.

There are three levels of knowing God clearly as follows.

1. Knowing God as Friend, meaning knowing Jesus who is exercising righteousness.

Matthew 11:19

11:19 The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners! But wisdom is justified by her children.

When the true teaching Word is preached and shows our sins, Jesus appears as a friend of sinful man. He who is full of righteousness is willing to die on the cross to save and justify sinful man.

The proof of knowing Jesus who is full of righteousness is confessing sins seriously to Him and the others.

Hebrews 8:11-12

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.*

The blood of Jesus will forgive and cover our sin until it cannot be seen anymore. After being forgiven, we should not repeat the sin, but we must live in righteousness and be the instruments of righteousness.

2. Knowing Jesus as the Great Shepherd, meaning knowing Jesus who is exercising judgment.

John 10:11

10:11 *I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.*

1 Peter 5:7

5:7 *casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.*

The proofs of knowing Jesus as the Great Shepherd are as follows.

- Casting all our care upon Him. Worrying life cannot be right.
- Being firm in the shepherding.

1 Peter 2:25

2:25 *For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.*

The result is the Great Shepherd cares our life directly, until we can give thanks to Him.

The Great Shepherd also cares our life spiritually. We can live righteously and everything is beautiful in His time.

Our life does not depend on something in this world, but it depends on the Great Shepherd.

2. Knowing Jesus as the Heavenly Bridegroom, meaning knowing Jesus who is exercising lovingkindness.

Isaiah 54:5,10

54:5 *For your Maker is your husband, The Lord of hosts is His name; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth.*

54:10 *For the mountains shall depart and the hills be removed, But My kindness shall not depart from you, Nor shall My covenant of peace be removed, Says the Lord, who has mercy on you.*

Ephesians 5:25

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

Jesus as the Husband dies on the cross to declare His lovingkindness that never changes.

Ephesians 5:22-23

5:22 *Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.*

5:23 *For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.*

The proof of knowing Jesus as the Heavenly Bridegroom with His lovingkindness is submission, that is worship. There is no opposition or rebellion attitude.

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 result is we experience His marvelous lovingkindness as the two wings of a great eagle or His two hands that are stretched out to embrace our life.

The usefulness of the two wings of a great eagle is as follows.

- Bringing us getting through the sea of the world, meaning:
 - Caring and protecting us marvelously as the apple of His eye. Even a grain of sand cannot enter it.
 - Solving all our problems miraculously, making possible the impossible one.
 - Flying us to the wilderness far from the presence of antichrist.

Revelation 12:14

12:14 But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

- Lifting us up to the glorious clouds on His second coming.
The term "lifting up" means purifying and renewing us little by little. We become an obedient life, until we are perfect as He is and we are lifted up to the glorious clouds.

God blesses us.