

General Service in Malang, September 23, 2012 (Sunday Morning)

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

Do not be afraid when we experience the death with Jesus. Do not take our own way. There are miracles behind it.

The 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.
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.

ad. 3. The graves are opened.

Now it means that the death of Jesus sets us free from death, so we can live in righteousness and bear witness about Jesus.

Revelation 20:6

20:6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

The prophecy that will happen is the first resurrection when Jesus comes a second time.

One who experiences the first resurrection will not enter the second death in the hell, but will be raised as priest and king to enter the kingdom of peace a thousand years, up to the eternal kingdom of Heaven or the New Jerusalem.

Romans 6:5

6:5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,

The requirement of experiencing the first resurrection is we must experience the death and revival (cross experience) with Jesus starting from now.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52

15:51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-

15:52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

The mystery from God is we shall not all die. There are sons or servants of God who will die, but also there are ones who will live until Jesus comes a second time. Both conditions are the mercy of God.

There are two great incidents that will happen when Jesus comes a second time as follows.

- a. One who has been dead in Jesus, and whose whole life experiences death and revival, will be raised in the body of glory when Jesus comes a second time.
- b. One who is still alive, and whose whole life experiences death and revival, will be renewed in the body of glory in the twinkling of an eye when Jesus comes a second time.

These both parts will become one perfect body of Christ with Jesus as the Head that cannot be separated. The body of Christ as the bride will meet Jesus as the Bridegroom in the marriage supper of the Lamb of God, that will be continued to enter the Paradise, up to the New Jerusalem forever.

It is not the death or life physically that decides whether we enter the marriage supper of the Lamb of God/ Paradise/ New Jerusalem or not. The important thing is we must experience death and revival (cross experience) with Jesus in our whole life.

There are three groups that enter the kingdom of peace a thousand years up to the New Jerusalem as follows.

1. Group of sons or servants of God who experience death and revival with Jesus in their whole life.

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 practices of experiencing death and revival with God are as follows.

- o Entering water baptism.

The true water baptism is the baptism according to the Holy Bible and following the pattern of Jesus.

Romans 6:2

6:2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

The requirement of water baptism is repenting, having died to sins. We must listen more to the Word that points our sins, so we can confess our sins and repent.

The execution of true water baptism is being buried in water baptism with Jesus. One must die with Jesus, and rise with Him.

The result is rising in newness of life, that is life in righteousness.

Proverbs 12:26

12:26 The righteous should choose his friends carefully, For the way of the wicked leads them astray.

Righteous life will be shepherded on the true teaching Word and stay inside the true shepherding pen. In Tabernacle, it denotes the Holy Place, where there are three kinds of equipment as follows.

- a. Golden Candlestick ☞ perseverance in General Service.
- b. Table of Showbread ☞ perseverance in Bible Study Service with Holy Communion.
- c. Golden Altar of Incense ☞ perseverance in Prayer Service.

Shepherded life is as Israelites who dwell in the land of Goshen.

Genesis 47:6

47:6 The land of Egypt is before you. Have your father and brothers dwell in the best of the land; let them dwell in the land of Goshen. And if you know any competent men among them, then make them chief herdsmen over my livestock.

Goshen is the best land. Shepherding pen is the best place in the whole world. There we are cared and protected directly by God. There is happiness, calmness, and peace from Heaven.

Shepherding pen is the place to firm our righteousness and salvation from God.

- o Seeking and setting our mind on Heavenly things more than the things on the earth.

Colossians 3:1-3

3:1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

3:2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

3:3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

- o Experiencing inner and outer renewal.

Colossians 3:5-10

3:5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: (1)fornication, (2)uncleanness, (3)passion, (4)evil desire, and (5)covetousness, which is (6)idolatry.

3:6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience,

3:7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

3:8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: (1)anger, (2)wrath, (3)malice, (4)blasphemy, (5)filthy language out of your mouth.

3:9 Do not (6)lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,

3:10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

Six deeds of sin (outer) and six characters of sin (inner) must be renewed continually until we do not lie to one another. Until sometime we do not stumble in word, we are perfect and enter the last shepherding place in the New Jerusalem.

James 3:2

3:2 For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.

2. Group of sons or servants of God who had been slain for Jesus, because they do not want to deny Him.

Revelation 6:9-11

6:9 When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held.

6:10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

6:11 Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.

Revelation 20:4

20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

It begins from the days of Abel, who is killed by Cain, to these days, up to the days of antichrist.

Instead of being slain for Jesus or being beheaded on the days of antichrist, it is better that we experience the cross now to put to death the flesh so we live in righteousness and holiness until we inherit the New Jerusalem.

3. The special way.

Luke 23:39-43

23:39 Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us."

23:40 But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation?"

23:41 And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong.

23:42 Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."

23:43 And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

From these two criminals, only one who can call the name of Jesus.

The criminals who are hanged beside Jesus represent cursed lives, who repeat sins as dog and sow, and are in total failure and without hope. But God still gives chance and grace to help us whatever our condition is this morning.

The criminals who are hanged beside Jesus suffer because of sins they have done. But we should not be desperate, since there are chance and grace from God.

How is the way to use the chance and grace from God?

- Confessing our sins to God and the others. If we are forgiven, we should not do any sins again.

- Do not blame the others or God. Do not blame the true teaching Word.
If we blame the others or God in suffering, our life will be destroyed up to perdition forever.

- Worshiping Jesus as King of kings, Heavenly Bridegroom, a great High Priest.
Our eyes are upon God, our lips call the name of Jesus. Thus, He will stretch out His merciful hands to:
 - a. Help and recover us right in His time.
 - b. Move us from the ambience of curse to the ambience of Paradise.
 - c. Purify and renew us, until we are perfect and proper to enter the kingdom of peace a thousand years in His second coming.

If now we experience suffering without any sins with Jesus (the sprinkling of blood), let us be silent and worship God more in patience and perseverance. Thus sometime God will also stretch out His merciful hands.

God blesses us.