Ascension Service in Malang, May 29, 2014 (Thursday Evening)

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

Revelation 1:13-16 is about four appearances of Jesus in His glory as follows.

a. [verse 13] The appearance of Jesus in His glory as The High Priest.
b. [verse 14] The appearance of Jesus in His glory as The King of all kings.
c. [verse 15] The appearance of Jesus in His glory as The Just Judge.
d. [verse 16] The appearance of Jesus in His glory as The Heavenly Bridegroom.

ad. 3. The appearance of Jesus in His glory as The Just Judge.
Revelation 1:15
1:15 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters;

What for does Jesus ascend to heaven?

1. For appearing in His glory as The High Priest, King of all kings, Just Judge, and Heavenly Bridegroom in order to give serenity in the midst of the world which has been destroyed.
   John 14:1-3
   14:1 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.
   14:2 "In My Fatherâ??s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.
   14:3 "And if I go and prepare a placefor you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

2. For preparing the place in heaven for us.
3. For coming a second time to lift us, the holy and perfect church, up on the glorious clouds until we can enter the eternal heavenly kingdom together with Him forever.

Now we are commemorating the Ascension Day and someday we will also be exalted to heaven.

We must be alert because Jesus also comes as The Just Judge. **What for**?

1. For judging or punishing the world in the last days with the people and servants of God who live in sins up to the peak and are left behind (not lifted up) when Jesus comes a second time.
   2 Peter 3:10
   3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

   All of them will be destroyed and perish in the doomsday while other people are being lifted up on the glorious clouds.

2. For judging all people, including the servants of God who have not finished their sins yet on the white throne to condemn them in the hell or the sea of fire and brimstone forever.
   Revelation 20:11-14
   20:11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.
   20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.
   20:13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.
   20:14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

There are two great possibilities in commemorating the Ascension Day as follows.

1. The perfect Church will be lifted up and glorified in heaven when Jesus comes a second time.
2. Many people are left when Jesus comes a second time and they sink and perish together with the world forever.

1 Peter 4:17

4:17 For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

Jesus comes now as The Just Judge to judge all of us, His church, so that we will not be judged together with the world or get the judgment on the white throne.

Revelation 1:15
1:15 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters;

Jesus judges us with His voice as the sound of many waters that refers to the prophetic Word as follows.

- The revelation of the Word of God that reveals all things that have not happened yet, especially Jesusâ?? second coming and Godâ??s judgment upon the world.

- The revelation of the Word of God that reveals the hidden sins in the congregation that make the presence of God hidden. The hidden sins will make us left when Jesus comes a second time and we will sink together with the world.

What must be judged by the Prophetic Word? There are three sins that make us not lifted up when Jesus comes a second time, even sink together with the world, as follows.

1. **The sin of Babylon**.
   Revelation 18:21
   18:21 Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore.

   It means as follows.

   - Uncleanness sins, namely sins concerning eating-drinking such as smoking, getting drunk, drugs abuse, as well as sins concerning marrying-being given in marriage such as sexual sin with all its kinds, wrong marriage, and so on. The prophetic Word has a power to lift us up until we can live in holiness.

   - Evil sins.
     1 Timothy 6:6-10
     6:6 Now godliness with contentment is great gain.
     6:7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.
     6:8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.
     6:9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.
     6:10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

     The root of all kinds of evil is the love of money that causes the money to have root in the heart and the Word, Holy Spirit, and the love cannot have any place in the heart.
     Consequently, one becomes stingy and greedy. Stinginess means one cannot give for the work of God and other people who are in need. Greediness means looking for money in illegal ways and stealing the possession of God that is tithes and offering and the one of others by doing corruption, not paying the debt, and so on.

     The prophetic Word has the power to lift up, so that we can return the possession of God and others as well as give for the work of God and others who are in need.

     If we can give, God will give us the ministry and the gifts of Holy Spirit, so that we are used for building the perfect body of Christ.
     Luke 6:38
     6:38 "Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

   - The sin of stumbling.
     Matthew 18:6
     18:6 "But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

It means that one becomes a stumbling-block for other people, so that they do not want to get the salvation and the true teaching Word. Such person will also stumble and get angry easily because of keeping the will of the flesh.

The prophetic Word has the lifting up power, so that we do not become the stumbling-block, but blessings for others.

2. **The sin of Korah**.
   Jude 1:11
   1:11 Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

   Numbers 16:8-11
   16:8 Then Moses said to Korah, "Hear now, you sons of Levi:
   16:9 "Is it a small thing to you that the God of Israel has separated you from the congregation of Israel, to bring you near to Himself, to do the work of the tabernacle of the LORD, and to stand before the congregation to serve them;
   16:10 "and that He has brought you near to Himself, you and all your brethren, the sons of Levi, with you? And are you seeking the priesthood also?
   16:11 "Therefore you and all your company are gathered together against the LORD. And what is Aaron that you complain againsthim?"

   The sin of Korah is rebellion. The facts found in it are as follows.

   - Disobedience.
   - Unfaithfulness, even one leaves the service and ministry to God.
     Hebrews 10:25-27
     10:25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.
     10:26 For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,
     10:27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.

     As we see the Day approaching or when Jesus will come a second time, let us be more zealous, faithful, and fervent in spirit in our ministering to God.

   - Murmurbecause of insisting something that is physical and fleshy.

   Luke 17:7-8,10
   17:7 "And which of you, having a servant plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, â[?][?]Come at once and sit down to eatâ[?][?]?
   17:8 "But will he not rather say to him, â[?][?]Prepare something for my supper, and gird yourself and serve me till I have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will eat and drinkâ[?][?]?
   17:10 "So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, â[?][?]We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.â[?][?]"

   The prophetic Word increases our service and ministry, so that we can become a doulos or the servant of God in the anointing of Holy Spirit. We can minister to God with the belt of faithfulness and righteousness. The doulos is also the servant of God who ministers without any right, but only duty, so he can be obedient.

   If we minister to God with the belt of faithfulness, righteousness, and obedience, our ministry will satisfy God as if we give food and drink to Jesus. As a result, God will also satisfy us. We have heavenly satisfaction in our service to God. Our marriage will also be satisfied for sure and our physical food, drink, and future life will be the concern of God.

   1 Timothy 6:6
   6:6 Now godliness with contentment is great gain.

3. **Doubt**.
   Matthew 14:25-31
   14:25 Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea.
   14:26 And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear.

14:27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."
14:28 And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."
14:29 So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.
14:30 But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sinkhe cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"
14:31 And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

Peter had seen and experienced the lifting up power but then he could sink. He was great. Who are we, comparing to him? We must be alert. Sinking means decreasing in physical and spiritual life. If it continues, one will sink in the sea of fire and brimstone. It happened because Peter had doubtful heart. He was doubtful about the Lord and the true teaching Word because of being tossed by the wind of other teachings and gossips. If one doubts, he will falsely chooselike Eve and Solomon, even one will choose Jesus Barabbas rather than Jesus Christ.
Peter also doubted about the power of the Lord, so he hoped in others. Consequently, one decreases and sinks, there is no peace in his life, but fear, distress, as well as physical and spiritual decrease. There is no hope anymore, even he perishes forever.

The doubt is a symptom that one is not shepherded well and correctly. Finally, Peter almost drowned. Praise the Lord because He allows us to sink in the doubt while He is waiting for these two things.

- We lift up our two hands to Him.
- Our mouth only cries to Him.

It means that we return to the right and good shepherding through our perseverance in doing the three main services to God and obedience. We return to God Himself and the one true teaching Word. We trust and entrust our life fully to God and cry His name only. At that time, God is stretching His hands.

The results are as follows.

- The hand of Godâ??s grace will be stretchedright in His time. He will work and we must be patient in waiting for His time.
  Hebrews 4:14,16
  4:14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.
  4:16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

- The hand of Godâ??s grace is able to make all things beautiful and our future life beautiful and joyful in His time.
  Ecclesiastes 3:11
  3:11He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.

- The hand of Godâ??s grace will lift us up in His time. We are restored and successful in our physical life. We are sanctified and renewed continually until we can be as perfect as Jesus is when He comes a second time and we are lifted up to heaven forever.
  1 Peter 5:6
  5:6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

God blesses you.