

Christmas Fellowship Service at Kartika Graha Hotel Malang, December 25, 2016 (Sunday Evening)

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

There are two activities on the throne of Heaven as follows.

1. The activity of sanctification.

Revelation 4:8

4:8 The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!"

2. [Revelation 4:9-11] The activity of worship.

Revelation 4:10

4:10 the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:

If we, who are still living in this world, want to live in the ambience of the throne of Heaven, we must do the activity of sanctification and worship.

We still learn the first one.

Living in holiness means that we live in the ambience of the throne of Heaven. It equals to becoming the throne of Heaven, the place of God.

Luke 1:26-27

1:26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,

1:27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

The term "virgin" refers to holiness.

Luke 1:37

1:37 For with God nothing will be impossible."

Mary was not married, but she could bear and give birth the baby Jesus. It refers to impossibilities. But Jesus comes to erase the impossibilities.

If we live in holiness, we will become the throne of Heaven in the world, and Jesus will come to erase the impossibilities.

Jesus comes to erase the impossibilities for three times as follows.

1. Jesus comes to save His people from sins.

Matthew 1:21

1:21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

There are many burdens and sufferings of men in this world, but they will end in the grave. The heaviest burden of men is sin, because it encumbers men in the world and afterlife.

Romans 3:23

3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

All great things in the world (richness, knowledge, occupation) cannot save sinful men. All great men in the world (apostle, prophet, *et cetera*) also cannot save sinful men. Thus, there is nothing from the world that is able to save sinful men. Salvation is impossible thing in the world.

The way out comes from the Heaven, that is Christmas. The glorious God is born to become the same as men, but he is not sinful, in Jesus. Only the sinless man who is able to save the sinful one.

The main aim of Jesus' first coming to the world is the chosen nation of God or the Israelites, the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

We, as the Gentiles, are as the hard stone or as the dog and swine.

John 19:31-34

19:31 Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.

19:32 Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him.

19:33 But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs.

19:34 But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.

Jesus was crucified with two criminals near the Sabbath. The first and second criminals had not died yet so their legs were broken. But Jesus had died. The soldier pierced Jesus' side with a spear, so blood and water came out. Actually, Jesus has died with four main wounds, two in hands and two in feet. It is God's love to the Israelites or His chosen nation to save them from sins.

The fifth wound is the biggest and deepest one. It is God's grace to the Gentiles who are just as the dog and swine. The Gentiles can be saved. It is a great miracle for us.

Ephesians 1:13

1:13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

Proverbs 25:25

25:25 A scold water to a weary soul, So is good news from a far country.

The Gentiles must accept the Gospel of Salvation or Good News to be saved. It is the gospel that preaches about Jesus' first coming to the world to die on the cross and redeem the sinful men.

The signs of salvation for the Gentiles are as follows.

a. The sign of blood.

It is faith, meaning believing Jesus as the only Savior, and repentance.

Revelation 21:8

21:8 But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

Repentance is started from eight sins that bring people directly to the hell.

- Being coward means being afraid of something in this world so one opposes God.
- Being unbelieving.
- Being abominable.
- Murder or hatred without any reasons.
- Being sexually immoral.
- Sorcerer or believing fortune-telling.
- Idolater. Idol is something that prevents us to love God.
- Liar.

b. The sign of water refers to water and Holy Spirit baptism.

There is only one true water baptism, that is we must be baptized as Jesus was.

Matthew 3:16

3:16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.

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 died to sin must be buried in water together with Jesus, to be raised with Him and receive new life or Heavenly life.

Ephesians 1:13

1:13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

The Heavenly life is the one that is anointed with Holy Spirit. We live in righteousness and become the instrument of righteousness. We minister God with faithfulness and righteousness according to the ministry entrusted by Him to us.

Proverbs 10:2-3

10:2 Treasures of wickedness profit nothing, But righteousness delivers from death.

10:3 The Lord will not allow the righteous soul to famish, But He casts away the desire of the wicked.

Living in righteousness equals to being saved. God cares and blesses the righteous people up to their descendants, and we become blessing to the others.

2. Jesus comes from the mountain (the Heaven) to the valley (the world) to heal the spiritual epilepsy.

Mark 9:22-23

9:22 And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us."

9:23 Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."

The spiritual epilepsy refers to moral degradation, that is doing sins concerning eating-drinking (smoking, getting drunk, consuming drugs) and marrying-being given in marriage (sexuality sin with all its varieties, mix marriage, marrying-divorcing).

The spiritual epilepsy also refers to broken marriage.

Thus, the spiritual epilepsy is impossibility that surges all human being, young and old, poor and rich. Even it surges the church of God.

Mark 9:25

9:25 When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it: "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!"

The cause of epilepsy is the deaf and dumb spirit. The deaf spirit is being unwilling to hear the Word. The dumb spirit is saying useless words, lie, gossip, slander, or blaspheming God (saying wrong the true teaching, saying right the false one).

2 Timothy 4:2

4:2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

The way out is that Jesus rebukes hardly. It refers to the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ or the true teaching Word that is sharper than any two-edged sword or the Bride Tidings.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

4:3 But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,

4:4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

Matthew 25:6

25:6 "And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!'"

The teaching Word is preached with longsuffering and teaching [2 Timothy 4:2], meaning being repeated. If one rejects the Word, chastening will come and problems will be bigger, until he will be destroyed forever.

Mark 9:24

9:24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

The true attitude is accepting the Word, believing and obeying it. Thus, miracle will happen. The spiritual epilepsy will be healed and marriage will be recovered.

This father is an Israelite. How about the Gentiles?

Matthew 15:26-28

15:26 But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs."

15:27 And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table."

15:28 Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

The harder the preached Word, the greater God's mercy to help the Gentiles. This woman can confess her fault and accept the crumbs, that is the true teaching Word, no matter how hard it is, and the sacrifice of Christ. Thus, the Gentiles can be helped.

3. Jesus will come for the second time to give us full salvation or perfection.

Hebrews 9:28

9:28 so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

We, as the sinful men, are newly born and renewed until we become as perfect as Jesus, to be worthy to welcome His second coming.

The process is called as life renewal. It is through two things as follows.

- a. The worship prayer.

Matthew 17:1-2

17:1 Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves;

17:2 and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.

In the worship prayer, Jesus appears in perfection as the King of kings and Heavenly Bridegroom, with His face shining as the sun.

In the worship prayer, we experience the process of tearing the flesh to renew our life from the fleshly man to the spiritual one as Jesus. At least now, we must have a shining countenance. Do not be sad.

Matthew 16:23

16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

Peter represents a servant of God, a pastor, or a husband. The countenance of Peter becomes as Satan because he is egoistic and rejects the cross or salvation. It must be renewed to the shining countenance. We must live in righteousness to bring the others to salvation.

Genesis 4:4-5

4:4 Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering,

4:5 but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

Cain is a servant of God but his countenance falls since he envies Abel whose offering is accepted by God. It must be renewed to the shining countenance, that is being able to love the others.

1 Samuel 1:15

1:15 But Hannah answered and said, "No, my lord, I am a woman of sorrowful spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor intoxicating drink, but have poured out my soul before the Lord.

Hannah has a sad countenance because of her husband. We must pray and worship God more so the sad countenance can be renewed to the shining one.

The Samaritan woman has a countenance as the dog and swine, meaning living in evil and uncleanness. Let us repent and return to the right marriage, so we have the shining countenance.

Luke 24:17,19-21

24:17 And He said to them, "What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?"

24:19 And He said to them, "What things?" So they said to Him, "The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,

24:20 and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him.

24:21 But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened.

Two disciples of Jesus in Emmaus have the sad countenance because they face impossible problems. By worshipping God, it will be renewed to the shining countenance.

b. The Holy Communion.

Isaiah 52:13-14

52:13 Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently; He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high.

52:14 Just as many were astonished at you, So His visage was marred more than any man, And His form more than the sons of men;

Jesus is crucified and His visage is marred so our countenance can be renewed to the shining one.

Having the shining countenance means becoming the throne of God. We become the house of prayer. Thus, physical miracle will also happen. The impossible things will be made possible. When God has not helped us yet, He is still busy with our spirituality. When He comes a second time, we will be renewed to become the same as Him.

Philippians 3:20-21

3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

3:21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

God blesses us.