

General Service in Malang, 19, March 2017 (Sunday Morning)

CHILD SUBMISSION SERVICE

Mark 4:35-41

4:35 On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side."

4:36 Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him.

4:37 And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling.

4:38 But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"

4:39 Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.

4:40 But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?"

4:41 And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"

Our lives' journey to follow and serve to God is as a boat crossing over the sea towards the haven / port. It means a successful and beautiful future until we enter the New Jerusalem, the Heavenly Kingdom forever.

The responsibility of parents is to bring the marriage and children not only toward the successful and beautiful future but up to the eternal life in the New Jerusalem.

The journey in this world has to face the wind and waves, namely the physical and spiritual temptations. They are run by Satan in order to hinder us from ministering God and make us depart from faith.

The wind and waves must be encountered by the power of God, namely being peaceful and still.

Being peaceful means to correct ourselves with the sharpness of the sword of The Word. If we find sin, we must make peace with confessing to God and others.

Being still means to be shepherded, meaning to be faithful in three main services. Being still also means to have self-control, so we do not depend on others but only on God.

Being peaceful and still is the same as stretching our hands to God. Therefore, God will also stretch His great merciful hands to us. He can do anything. He cares for us, protects us, makes the wind and waves calm, until leads us to the New Jerusalem

God blesses us.

GENERAL SERVICE

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

Revelation 5:1

5:1 And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals.

The scroll in the right hand of God is the same as the Bible that we have in this world through God's revelation to His disciples who are trusted. For example, Moses wrote five books about past occurrence far before he had been born. John the Apostle wrote five books about the future things..

There are two conditions of the scroll as follows:

1. It was written inside and on the back. It means that the Word of God is able to sanctify us inside and out (physically and spiritually) or our whole life (body, soul, and spirit), up to being as perfect as God.
2. It was sealed with seven seals, meaning the secret is not revealed. There is no revelation from God.

Revelation 5:2-3

5:2 Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?"

5:3 And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.

No one was able to open the scroll, even in heaven (the strong angel), on earth (the weak human), and under the earth (Satan).

Revelation 5:4

5:4 So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.

John the Apostle, who was exiled in Patmos Island, wept much because there was no revelation from God. Why did it happen? It happened because John yearned for God's Word to be revealed and practiced.

Colossians 2:1-4

2:1 For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh,

2:2 that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ,

2:3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

2:4 Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words.

Paul the apostle also struggled and wept because he longed to get the revelation of God's Word because it is a priceless treasure of Heaven.

Therefore, we must change our weeping, from weeping because of physical matter (sickness, economy problem, etc) to a weeping to be able to receive the revelation of God's Word. The purposes or usefulnesses of the revelation of the Word are as follows:

1. To give us way out from any problems we face, up to the opening of the Heaven's door.
2. To make the congregation not wild.

Proverbs 29:18

29:18 Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law.

3. To make the congregation not be deceived with persuasive words, like Eve who was deceived by snake.

Colossians 2:4

2:4 Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words.

Matthew 24:3-5,11,24

24:3 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

24:4 And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you.

24:5 For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.

24:11 Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.

24:24 For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

At the end times, there will be many deceptions, even to the chosen people who understand and experience the True Teaching Word. The word "deceive" was mentioned 4 times. It means that the false teaching will strike all over the world.

Being deceived means to walk out from or leaving the True Teaching Word that has become experience in life. It is the same as a ship that loses its direction to the harbor, namely the New Jerusalem.

1 Timothy 4:1-2

4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

4:2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,

If there is the revelation from God, the people will always be sanctified. So they will always live in the anointing of the Holy Spirit. They are firm and steadfast to the True Teaching Word whatever the risks are. They are also firm to refuse other deceiving doctrines. It is the same as being on God's side, and He will be on our side too.

If there is no sanctification or revelation from God, one will become dry spiritually and there is hidden sin. It means being without the anointing of the Holy Spirit or following the fleshly mind and feelings, so one cannot be firm in refusing other teachings. When we give a chance to hear false teaching, our conscience will be marked by Satan to be insincere, impure, and disobedient. Consequently, it starts to give critics until rejecting the True Teaching Word.

1 Timothy 1:19-20

1:19 having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck,

1:20 of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

If our conscience is impure, the faith will suffer shipwreck waiting to sink in the sea of fire and brimstone.

Acts 27:41

27:41 But striking a place where two seas met, they ran the ship aground; and the prow stuck fast and remained immovable, but

the stern was being broken up by the violence of the waves.

Our journeys to follow and serve to God are like a ship sailing in the ocean to reach the peaceful harbor, the New Jerusalem. Being deceived by wind of false teachings, the ship runs aground and crashes the sand dunes. It is the same as a Christian life who is disobedient and rejects God's revelation.

1 Timothy 1:20

1:20 of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

The practices of crashing on the sand dunes begin with the tongue that grumbles, protests, gives critics, gossips, slanders, and blasphemes God.

If the faith runs aground, the ship will be wrecked. There are two kinds of damage as follows:

1. The stern was broken.

Jesus slept in the stern. It refers to Jesus who died on the cross, meaning the first love.

The broken stern means that there is no first love or we do not respect to the sacrifice of Christ. The practices are as follows:

- To fall and rise in sin or to live in sin up to the peak, namely the sins concerning eating-drinking and marrying and giving in marriage.
- To be unfaithful and not fervent in spirit to serve to God, until leaving the ministry.

2. The prow stuck fast and remained immovable.

Ephesians 2:11-13

2:11 Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh--who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands--

2:12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

It means as follows:

- The uncircumcision = without purity.
- Without Christ = without the anointing of the Holy Spirit.
- Without the promise of the Heaven.
- No hope = only being disappointed and desperate.
- Without God = No love.

And the results are failure, nakedness, misery, and suffering until one cannot reach the haven of the New Jerusalem.

Therefore, we must look into our conscience so that the ship will not run aground and be broken and destroyed. The conscience must be sincere, pure, and obedient.

Genesis 6:5

6:5 Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

But in the reality, the intent of the human conscience is evil. It makes the heart of God and parents sore or grieved, and the shepherd lament.

How can we have a good conscience?

Through the fifth wound of Jesus out of which blood and water came, it means that we must repent and be baptized in water, so we will have a new life.

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,

The true water baptism is the same as burying evil conscience in water and rising from water together with Jesus to receive a new conscience that is sincere, pure, obedient, and calm. The calm conscience means that we do not feel guilty or accuse others.

1 John 3:21-22

3:21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God.

3:22 And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

If we have a good conscience, we can worship God with contrite heart.

Isaiah 57:15

57:15 For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, With him who has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones."

Therefore Jesus as the High Priest will be present to give us new power, so we will not be disappointed and desperate. We can remain faithful and fervent in spirit whatever we face. He is able to help and restore everything that has been broken in our lives. Moreover, He is able to guide us to the harbor, the New Jerusalem.

For example, David had fallen in sin with Barhsheba, but he had a contrite heart, and God restored him.

Psalms 51:1,17

51:1 To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David

51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart--These, O God, You will not despise.

The Samaritan woman had destruction in her marriage and child, but she could confessed her sin / mistake [John 4:15-18], and God also restored her condition.

Matthew 14:29-31

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 sink he 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 was afraid and beginning to sink, but he cried out to Jesus, and He lifted Peter out from water.

God blesses us.