

General Service in Malang, April 10, 2016 (Sunday Morning)

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

In Revelation 2-3, there are seven churches of the Gentiles who receive the promise of God. The highest promise is in Revelation 3:21-22.

Revelation 3:21-22

3:21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

3:22 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.""

The promise of God to the church of the Laodiceans or all of us is sitting together with Him on the throne of Heaven forever. The spiritual condition of the church of Laodiceans is as a vomit, but God promises to exalt them to the throne of Heaven. Whatever our condition is, God is able to lift us up physically and spiritually, until we sit together with Him on the throne of Heaven forever.

In Revelation 2-3, there are seven steps for the Gentiles to sit together with Jesus on the throne of Heaven as follows.

1. [Revelation 2:1-7] The church in Ephesus must return to the first love or the sacrifice of Christ on the cross, that is repenting and being newly born.
2. [Revelation 2:8-11] The church in Smyrna must be faithful in suffering with Jesus until the end line.
3. [Revelation 2:12-17] The church in Pergamos does not deny the faith.
4. [Revelation 2:18-29] The church in Thyatira must return to the true consecration and ministry.
The true consecration or ministry or marriage must be encouraged by the true teaching Word.

Revelation 2:19-20

2:19 "I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first.

2:20 Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.

The wrong consecration or ministry or marriage is encouraged by wrong teaching, that is the teaching of Jezebel. The teaching of Jezebel is the false teaching that lets woman teach and have authority over man, either in the ministry or in marriage.

1 Corinthians 11:3

11:3 But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

The right formation according to Holy Bible is man is the head of woman. Thus, Christ is the Head of man, as well as the Head of marriage and ministry.

If woman becomes the head of man, Jesus cannot become the Head of man as well as ministry and marriage. The consequence is the serpent becomes the head. The marriage and ministry are naked and will be humiliated. These kinds of lives do sin up to its peak, and cannot sit together with Jesus on His throne forever.

1 Timothy 2:11-14

2:11 Let a woman learn in silence with all submission.

2:12 And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence.

2:13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve.

2:14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.

The teaching of Jezebel is related to the falling of Eve in Garden Eden. God's command is they may eat fruits of all tree in the garden freely, except of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Woman may serve in everything, except teaching and having authority over man. If woman teaches and has authority over man, it equals to giving the forbidden fruit to man, so they become naked and dead.

Hebrews 13:4-6

13:4 Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

13:5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

13:6 So we may boldly say: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

If the ministry and marriage are true, that is putting man as the head, Jesus will appear as the Head of His body, the Head of the ministry, and the Head of the marriage.

The proof is honesty. We let "yes" be "yes" and "no" be "no". At least we are honest in three things as follows.

- Being honest about the true teaching Word.

Titus 2:7

2:7 in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility,

- Being honest in marriage.

Hebrews 13:4

13:4 Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

It is started with preserving the righteousness of marriage according to the true teaching Word. Further, we keep the holiness of marriage. Do not fall in sins. We also keep the unity of marriage, until we reach the spiritual marriage in the Marriage Supper of the Lamb of God.

- Being honest about money.

Hebrews 13:5

13:5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

In every blessing received, there are the belongings of the others, that is the belonging of God (the tithe and special offering) and of the others who are in need (alms). The rest is ours. Being honest with our own blessing means we do not use it wrongly and wastefully. If we are wrong, we will not be trusted by God anymore.

If we are honest in the teaching Word, marriage, and money, we will be honest in everything, and Jesus will become the Head of His body. Jesus becomes the Head of the ministry and marriage. Jesus as the King governs our life. Jesus as the King has the right over our whole life. We have no right anymore. We only obey Him. Jesus as the King also has obligation to care our life so He is obedient until He dies on the cross.

Revelation 2:26

2:26 And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations--

Sometime, we will also become kings who rule together with Jesus forever.

5. [Revelation 3:1-6] The church in Sardis must watch over the white garment or the garment of ministry.

Revelation 3:3-4

3:3 Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.

3:4 You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.

It equals to appearing as the shining stars.

Daniel 12:1,3

12:1 "At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, every one who is found written in the book.

12:3 Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.

We face darkness in the last days, meaning difficulties, wickedness, uncleanness, oppressiveness, deceit, up to the darkest darkness when antichrist rules the world for three years and a half.

Therefore, we must watch over the white garment. We must appear as the shining stars. Why?

- It is so that we are not swallowed by the darkness of the world in the last days.

- It is so that we can illuminate the others who are in darkness, until we become the light of the world.
- It is so that our name is written in the book of life.

Revelation 12:3-4

12:3 And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.

12:4 His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.

We must be watchful because a third of the stars of heaven will fall because of the tail of the dragon. It refers to uncleanness, wickedness, deceit, and oppressiveness. Falling means the name is deleted from the book of life. The example is Judas Iscariot.

Philippians 2:12-16

2:12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

2:13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

2:14 Do all things without complaining and disputing,

2:15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

2:16 holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

The process to become the shining star equals to the process to wear the white garment.

- Working out our salvation with fear and trembling. It means we minister God with faithfulness and responsibility to Him, as well as with faithfulness and fervency in spirit.
If one is not faithful and fervent in spirit, it equals to having the wicked and lazy stain on the garment, and he is as the falling star.
- Heart willingness to sacrifice and give in the ministry to God, until we can give our whole life to Him. Stinginess and greediness are stains on the garment. This kind of life is as the falling star.
- Not complaining and disputing, but always giving thanks and worshiping God. If one complains, disputes, gossips, he has the stain on the garment and equals to the falling star.
- Holding fast the Word of life, meaning as follows.
 - a. Holding fast the true teaching Word that has become our life experience and sanctified us. It equals to the star that only holds to one orbit.
 - b. Being obedient to the true teaching Word, whatever the risk we must face. It equals to stretching out our hands to God, worshiping and surrendering our life to Him.

Revelation 1:20

1:20 The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.

Thus, God will hold us with His right hand. The results are as follows.

- Everlasting God's care and protection, so we are always in peace. There are no more fear, worry, and grudge. Everything becomes easy and light.

Psalms 16:11

16:11 You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

- The right hand of God gives us victory and solves all our problems even the impossible ones.

Psalms 118:15-16

118:15 The voice of rejoicing and salvation in the tents of the righteous; The right hand of the Lord does valiantly.

118:16 The right hand of the Lord is exalted; The right hand of the Lord does valiantly.

The last victory is the right hand of God writes our name in the book of life, until it is finished.

- The right hand of God exalts us, meaning making our life successful. Everything becomes beautiful in His time. God's hand sanctifies and renews our life little by little until we are perfect as Him on His second coming. We become the light of the world and are exalted on the glorious clouds, until we sit together with Him on the throne of Heaven forever.

God blesses us.