

General Service in Malang, August 08, 2010 (Sunday Morning)

CHILD SERVICE

Psalm 144:12a

144:12 That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth;

Psalm 92:13-16

92:13 The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

92:14 Those who are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God.

92:15 They shall still bear fruit in old age; They shall be fresh and flourishing,

92:16 To declare that the LORD is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

Our prayer and the prayer of parents are lifted up in order to make our sons as a fresh and flourishing plant bearing fruit in old age.

The requirements of being fresh and flourishing as well as bearing fruit in old age are below:

1. Being righteous [Psalm 92:13].

It is not false that we have physical desire such as being doctor, et cetera, but the highest desire must be being righteous person.

The practices of being righteous person are below:

- Having righteous heart and mind, there is no bitterness, revenge, or envy.
- Having righteous deeds.
- Having righteous words of mouth, not lying.

2. Being planted in the house of the Lord = being shepherded [Psalm 92:14].

A pastor must be shepherded first.

If a pastor is not shepherded, the congregation will be scattered.

Being shepherded means having perseverance in committing three main services to God, i.e. General Service, Bible Study Service and Holy Communion, and Prayer Service.

Being shepherded, we are in the hand of Great Shepherd and here are the results:

- Growing like cedar, meaning there is the power of faith from God to become enduring in facing the wind of temptation and the waves of the world as well as there is help from God to finish all problems.

The cedar was used in building the temple of God in the days of King Solomon, meaning we are employed in building Christ's body.

- Flourishing like a palm tree, meaning there is a beautiful and joyful future life.

It continues until we have the sweetest fruit, that is to say the fruit of perfection, we become the Bride of God who is ready to welcome Jesus' second coming.

Being shepherded and bearing fruits, do not forget to give testimony to other people that God never fools us from our childhood to our old age [Psalm 92:16].

GENERAL SERVICE

Matthew 25:14-15

25:14. "For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them.

25:15 "And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.

A man traveling to a far country refers to Jesus who has been ascended to heaven.

God trusts us, the sinful people, with the talent, that is the treasury of heaven which is holy. It is His mercy for us.

The sinful men are separated from God and there is no power to return to Him.

It means perdition forever.

Therefore, He called the sinful men to justify them and to trust them with talents, referring to the priest's offices and the gifts of Holy Spirit.

The relationship between men and God/heavenly kingdom can be opened through the priest's offices and the gifts of Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 4:8-12

4:8 Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men."

4:9 (Now this, "He ascended" --what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?

4:10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

4:11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

4:12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

Jesus must descended into the lower parts of the earth through being dead on the cross in order to call the sinful men and to give them the talents as follows:

1. He led captivity captive, meaning He calls the sinful men to justify them and to make them the servants of righteousness.
2. He gave gifts to men, meaning He trusts us with the talents or the ministries and the gifts of Holy Spirit so we can be employed in building Christ's body.

In conclusion, **being sinful men formerly but now we can be employed in the ministry of building Christ's body is the mercy of God, the greatest gift more than all things.**

We must appreciate the spiritual ministry more than all we appreciate the physical services.

If we do not minister in the perfect body of Christ, we will serve in the building of Babel's body or the bride of Satan.

The smallest body of Christ begins in a marriage. A husband, a wife and children must serve in the marriage.

It continues in shepherding that a pastor must feed the congregation and the ministers of God must serve seriously.

Afterward, there is an inter-shepherding ministry that we all must serve Him whether we go outside our shepherding or not.

Our attitudes to the mercy of God must be as follows:

1. We must receive the mercy or the trust of God or we MUST minister in the building of Christ's body.
Only hard-hearted person who does not want to minister God after being lifted up from the bottomless pit.
2. We must always be in the mercy of God or we minister in the mercy of God.

Romans 11:22

11:22 Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.

Do not go out of the mercy of God as follows:

- Not ministering God or being outside God.
- Ministering but carelessly without any appreciation to God.
Do not serve carelessly means do not minister with sinning!
- Ministering but with unfaithfulness even forsaking the ministry.

The practices of ministering in the mercy of God are below:

1. Serving and ministering God with presenting our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God.

Romans 12:1

12:1. I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

Serving means offering something, not seeking something.

The least sacrifice is the tithes and special offerings we return to God. Afterward, we may offer our holy and living body which is acceptable to God.

How can we present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God?

It is through our **perseverance in shepherding system**, that is to say our perseverance in committing three main services to the Lord as follows:

- **Golden Candlestick**(https://www.gptkk.org/tabernacle_golden+candlestick.html) -->the fellowship with Holy Spirit God or our perseverance in committing General Service to result in **the living body**.

John 6:63

6:63 "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

The living body is the righteous life without any sin and we are active in serving and ministering God.

- **Table of Showbread**(https://www.gptkk.org/tabernacle_table-of-showbread.html) -->the fellowship with the Son of God in the teaching Word and the Holy Communion or our perseverance in committing Bible Study Service and the Holy Communion to sanctify us to result in **the holy body**.

John 15:3

15:3 *"You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.*

The power of teaching Word keeps us free from the uncleanness of sin.

- **Golden Altar of Incense**(https://www.gptkk.org/tabernacle_the+golden+altar+of+incense.html) -->the fellowship with Father God in His love or our patience in committing Prayer Service to result in **the acceptable body to God**.

Only the love of God may make our body acceptable to God.

The acceptable body has **an obedience or love to God and love to our fellows**.

Offering ourselves in fire, it will be vain if there is neither love nor obedience, only as sounding brass or clanging cymbal.

2. Ministering with strong heart and good courage.

2 Corinthians 4:1

4:1. *Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart.*

Meaning as follows:

- Not being hopeless or disappointed, not stumbling in facing all matters but hoping always in God.
- Holding fast the true teaching Word, not being doubtful.
- Living in righteousness and holiness anywhere, anytime, in any condition.
- Being faithful and fervent in spirit in facing all matters.

Hebrews 1:7

1:7 *And of the angels He says: "Who makes His angels spirits And His ministers a flame of fire."*

Daniel 7:9

7:9. *"I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, And the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire;*

The servant of God who is strong and of good courage = the flame of fire.

The throne of God = the flame of fire.

The servant of God who is strong and of good courage = the throne of God in the earth.

Psalms 11:4

11:4. *The LORD is in His holy temple, The LORD'S throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men.*

Being the throne of God, there must be His care to understand our condition and here are the results:

- The Lord gives us food.

Ruth 1:6

1:6. *Then she arose with her daughters-in-law that she might return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had visited His people by giving them bread.*

The spiritual food means the teaching Word sanctifying and satisfying us, so we do not fall into the satisfaction of the world.

- The Lord will help us in time of need.

Psalms 40:18

40:18 *But I am poor and needy; Yet the Lord thinks upon me. You are my help and my deliverer; Do not delay, O my God.*

- The Lord tests us as His care toward us.

Psalms 11:4

11:4. *The LORD is in His holy temple, The LORD'S throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men.*

Job 7:17-18

7:17. "What is man, that You should exalt him, That You should set Your heart on him,

7:18 That You should visit him every morning, And test him every moment?"

Why did Job have to be tested? It was because he still had self-truth, that he covered his sins through blaming other people even blaming God.

Job 32:1-2

32:1. So these three men ceased answering Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes.

32:2 Then the wrath of Elihu, the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the family of Ram, was aroused against Job; his wrath was aroused because he justified himself rather than God.

Job 42:5-6

42:5 "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You.

42:6 Therefore I abhor myself, And repent in dust and ashes."

Facing the tests, we must confess that we are only clay which deserves to be trampled and God will heal us doubly for our physical and spiritual life.

God blesses you.