

General Service in Malang, August 16, 2015 (Sunday Morning)

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

Revelation 2-3 is about the last sanctification that Jesus does to the seven churches of the Gentiles or the church in the last days, until we become perfect and blameless as Him. We are worthy to welcome His second coming. Although one has many excellences, but if there is a blemish, everything will be meaningless on His second coming.

Revelation 3:7-13 is about the church in Philadelphia.

Revelation 3:7

3:7 *And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, These things says He who is holy, He who is true, He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens:*

Jesus appears as He who has the key of David to do three great things as follows.

1. [Revelation 3:8] To open the door that no one can shut.
2. [Revelation 3:9] To give us victory over the synagogue of Satan.
3. [Revelation 3:10] To keep us from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world.

We are still learning the first thing.

Revelation 3:8

3:8 *I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.*

Matthew 27:50, 52

27:50 *And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.*

27:52 *and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised;*

Jesus is obedient and faithful until He dies on the cross to open the door of Hades, so we are not destroyed forever.

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 beapostles, 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 descends into the lower parts of the earth (Hades) to do two things as follows.

1. To set us free from the captivity of sin, so we are not destroyed.
2. To give us the ministry or to appoint us as the kings and priests, so we are used in the building of the perfect body of Christ.

A priest means as follows.

- One who is righteous and holy.
- One who holds the ministry and gift of Holy Spirit. We receive the ministry and gift of Holy Spirit through the laying on of the hands.

1 Timothy 4:14

4:14 *Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.*

We must not neglect the ministry after becoming a priest. A neglectful life is cursed.

- One who ministers God according to the ministry and gift of Holy Spirit that are entrusted by Him, until the end line.

The ministry of building the body of Christ equals to the fellowship of the body of Christ. It is started from within the marriage, the shepherding, inter-shepherding, up to one perfect body of Christ.

Be careful, there are right and wrong fellowships.

John 5:2-5

5:2 Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches.
 5:3 In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water.
 5:4 For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had.
 5:5 Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years.

The wrong fellowship spreads worldwide. Five porches refer to five continents in the world. The wrong fellowship is the fellowship of sick and disabled people. The signs are as follows.

1. It only shows the angel of God, not God.
 The angel of God refers to man, artist, *et cetera*, that is not according to the Word of God. The result is it cannot reach one who had an infirmity for thirty-eight years, meaning it cannot set us free from sins.
2. It only looks for self-interest.
 The example is looking for money or position. In normal condition, the people will be friendly one another. But when there is shake, they will show their original interest.
 The result is being paralyzed for thirty-eight years, meaning being inactive and unfaithful in the ministry. They only put their hope on man. They do not grow spiritually (they keep their sins) and are powerless in facing impossibility.

John 5:6,9

5:6 When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, *Do you want to be made well?*
 5:9 And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath.

The true fellowship shows Jesus related to the Sabbath.

Luke 13:10

13:10 Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath.

Jesus related to the Sabbath refers to the teaching Word.

Hebrews 4:9-13

4:9 There remains therefore a rest for the people of God.
 4:10 For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His.
 4:11 Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.
 4:12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
 4:13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

We struggle to enter the Sabbath or the rest through the work of the Word that is sharper than any two-edged sword.

Thus, the true fellowship shows the true teaching Word that is sharper than any two-edged sword, to sanctify and erase our spiritual blemish until we are perfect as Jesus.

Deuteronomy 2:14-15

2:14 And the time we took to come from Kadesh Barnea until we crossed over the Valley of the Zered was thirty-eight years, until all the generation of the men of war was consumed from the midst of the camp, just as the Lord had sworn to them.
 2:15 For indeed the hand of the Lord was against them, to destroy them from the midst of the camp until they were consumed.

If we reject the true fellowship, we will experience the outstretched hands of God that condemn and destroy. If we accept the true fellowship, we will experience the merciful hands of God that are stretched out to help all of us.

Every appearance of the true teaching Word equals to the appearance of Jesus in His mercy as follows.

1. Jesus sees everything. Nothing is hidden from Him. The teaching Word reveals our sins and conditions.

John 5:6

5:6 When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, *Do you want to be made well?*

2. Jesus knows, meaning He also feels our suffering, weariness, and heavy burden. Thus, we are peaceful.

3. Jesus says *“Do you want to be made well?”* It is an offer of His mercy because He has died on the cross.

“Do you want to be made well?” equals to *“Do you want your sins to be forgiven?”*

Mark 2:9

2:9 Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, “Your sins are forgiven you,” or to say, “Arise, take up your bed and walk?”

Our attitude is confessing our sins honestly to God and the others. We also confess our conditions and failures especially because we have not fully surrendered our life to Him.

John 5:8

5:8 Jesus said to him, “Rise, take up your bed and walk.”

Jesus also says *“Rise, take up your bed and walk.”* The true teaching Word is God’s command that must be obeyed. The teaching Word is frequently outside our logic, but it only means to be obeyed, not to be gossiped or debated.

No matter how hard the true teaching Word is, it is the stretching out of God’s merciful hands. Our attitude is we only believe and obey it whatever the risks are. It equals to stretching out our hands to God. Thus, He will also stretch out His hands to us, and physical miracle will happen.

John 5:14-15

5:14 Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, “See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you.”

5:15 The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

The proofs of experiencing the mercy and miracle from God are as follows.

1. Dwelling in the house of God, meaning being well and right shepherded, being faithful and fervent in spirit up to the end line.
2. Not doing sins again. As a result, our life will be more successful and beautiful.
3. Testifying and worshiping, until our mouth does not stumble in word. When Jesus comes a second time, we will be renewed as glorious as Him and we only cry out *“Alleluia!”*.

God blesses us.