

General Service in Malang, December 08, 2024 (Sunday Morning)

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

Revelation 22:7-17 is about the seven warnings, exhortations, or rebukes for the Church on the last days to be as perfect as Jesus is.

We still learn the first one.

Revelation 22:7

22:7 "Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

The warning is related to the joy. Why does God warn about the joy?

1. It is because the joy is needed absolutely by men in the world until reaching the heaven.
2. It is because many men falsely look for the joy until committing sins and suffering up to the perdition.
3. It is because there is no joy in the world. Since men committed sin, they lived in the curse up to the perdition.

Therefore, God offers and gives the heavenly joy that is related to the prophetic Word.

Revelation 1:3

1:3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

God is still giving the opportunity for us to read, hear, and obey the Word now.

Revelation 22:7

22:7 "Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

Nevertheless, there will be no more opportunity to read and hear the Word because we must already obey the Word to be ingrained in our life. We get the spiritual growth toward the righteousness, holiness, and perfection.

There are two negative attitudes toward the Word as follows:

1. Dropsy.

Luke14:1-2

14:1 Now it happened, as He went into the house of one of the rulers of the Pharisees to eat bread on the Sabbath, that they watched Him closely.

14:2 And behold, there was a certain man before Him who had dropsy.

It means the accumulation of liquid in stomach until there is swelling.

Spiritually, it means the swollen heart or arrogance until having the negative attitude toward the Word.

Numbers21:4-6

21:4 Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became very discouraged on the way.

21:5 And the people spoke against God and against Moses: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread."

21:6 So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died.

The fact found in it is loathing manna.

Psalms78:23-25

78:23 Yet He had commanded the clouds above, And opened the doors of heaven,

78:24 Had rained down manna on them to eat, And given them of the bread of heaven.

78:25 Men ate angels' food; He sent them food to the full.

Manna refers to the angels' food, the Shepherding Word, or the true teaching Word that is repeated by a pastor to be the food for the congregation.

[Luke 14:1-2] There was a certain man before Him who had dropsy while He was eating. It means that many people formerly were able to eat the shepherding Word and get the sanctification and blessings, but then they loathed the Word. Why? It is because the stomach of their heart is swollen as follows:

- Arrogance because of being blessed already.
- Self-truth until keeping sins and blaming at others.
- Disappointment because the fleshly will is not fulfilled until getting angry to the rebuke or advice of the Word and loathing the Word or not being willing to hear it.

The consequence is being bitten by the serpent.

Genesis 3:1

3:1 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

The serpent bites the ear until one starts hearing the other teachings and gossips as well as being doubtful to the true teachings until leaving it to turn to the false ones.

Acts 28:2-3

28:2 And the natives showed us unusual kindness; for they kindled a fire and made us all welcome, because of the rain that was falling and because of the cold.

28:3 But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat, and fastened on his hand.

The serpent bites the hand. It refers to the deeds which are without love, but committing sins against God, hurting others, and not being able to serve and minister to God.

Psalms 140:3

140:3 They sharpen their tongues like a serpent; The poison of asps is under their lips. Selah

The serpent bites the lip until saying the poisonous words or the meaningless ones such as lies, gossips, slanders, and blasphemies.

2. A place where two seas met.

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.

The ship struck it. It is the same as building a house on the sand.

Matthew 7:26-27

7:26 "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:

7:27 "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

It means hearing the Word, but not obeying; even he resists against it.

Consequently, he cannot endure.

It is like a house that falls and great is its fall because of the attack of the trinity of Satan as follows:

- The heavy rain or Satan with the unclean spirit, namely committing sins up to the peak.
- The wind or the false prophet with the false teachings causing the doubt until leaving the true teachings.

- The flood or the Antichrist with the power of mammon causing the love of money until being stingy and greedy or the spirit of hatred without a cause.

It is like the broken ship. The stern was broken. It means having no first love, not repenting, or having no sacrifice of Christ. The prow stuck fast and remained immovable. It means not being able to go forward or having no hope or holiness.

Ephesians 2:11-12

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 (1), being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel (2) and strangers from the covenants of promise (3), having no hope (4) and without God in the world (5).

The Gentiles are like the broken ship with five terms of 'without'.

Therefore, we must be gentle and humble, so we have the positive attitude toward the Word.

Matthew 7:24-25

7:24 "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:

7:25 "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

We can hear and obey the Word until the flesh does not speak anymore.

1 Peter 1:22

1:22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,

We live in holiness and loving one another.

Ephesians 4:11-12

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,

We are equipped with the ministry and gifts to be used in the ministry for the edification of the body of Christ. Our life becomes beautiful in time of need. It is the same as placing Jesus as the Head who is responsible for our life.

Exodus 40:33-34

40:33 And he raised up the court all around the tabernacle and the altar, and hung up the screen of the court gate. So Moses finished the work.

40:34 Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

It is like Moses who finished making the Tabernacle by hanging up the screen of the court gate.

For receiving Jesus as the Head, we must have the four pillars of faith as follows:

- The gospel according to Matthew = Jesus as the King, who defeats sins = the firm faith.
- The gospel according to Mark = Jesus as the Servant, who is obedient = the living faith.
- The gospel according to Luke = Jesus as a Man, who suffers = the tested faith.
- The gospel according to John = Jesus as the Son of God = the true, holy faith.

As a result, the clouds of glory, the Spirit of Glory, or the pillar of clouds and fire come to us. The results are as follows:

1. The pillar of clouds protects us from the heat of the sun, so we do not get disappointed or hopeless in facing the impossible temptations. We keep on believing in God. He is able to solve all impossible problems.
2. The pillar of fire protects us from the coldness of the wilderness at nighttime. Holy Spirit is able to make us faithful and fervent in spirit in the service and ministry to God.

Holy Spirit protects us from the destruction in the wilderness of the world. Holy Spirit changes our life from the fleshly men to the spiritual ones like Jesus is, namely honesty. We become the house of prayer. Our prayer is answered by God.

1 Peter 4:14

4:14 If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.

We receive the heavenly joy.

God blesses you.