

General Service in Malang, December 13, 2015 (Sunday Morning)

CHILD SUBMISSION SERVICE

John 10:11

10:11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

Jesus was willing to sacrifice everything, even His life, to be able to put us in the good and righteous shepherding, so that we are not attacked by the beast, but taken care of until we are perfect like Him.

This is why we need to give our whole life to God and to be in the good and righteous shepherding, and we will be on God's hands, the good shepherd.

The results are as follows.

1. God will guarantee our life with His care, from now to the end of time.

John 10:27-28

10:27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

10:28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

2. The good shepherd's hands will lead us to the final shepherding in New Jerusalem.

Revelation 7:17

7:17 for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

God blesses us.

GENERAL SERVICE

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

Revelation 3:18-19

3:18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

The condition of the church of the Laodiceans is lukewarm. Physically, they do not lack of anything, but spiritually empty because they are not filled with the true word. The consequence is they are vomited, useless, disgusting, unclean, and banished forever.

Jesus rebukes, gives advices, and chastens the church of Laodiceans or us, so that we earn the wealth of heaven, and we can please God's heart.

There are three kinds of the wealth of heaven as follows.

1. Gold refined in the fire.
2. The white garments to cover the nakedness.
3. Eye salve to anoint the eyes.

ad. 2. The white garments to cover the nakedness.

It refers to the garment that God entrusts us, which is the garment of atonement.

1 Peter 5:3

5:3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock;

God's entrusted garments is also the robe of shepherding.

Why do we need to be in the shepherding?

Luke 10:3

10:3 Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs among wolves.

Because no matter how great we are in this world, we are only like a lamb in the middle of wolves. We really need a shepherd or a shepherding.

Jesus is the example of shepherding, as He sacrificed Himself to be a good shepherd. We also have to give our time, energy, money, thought, and everything else to be a good sheep.

The characteristics of a good sheep are as follows.

1. Listening and being obedient to the shepherd's voice, or eating the word.

John 10:27

10:27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

If we are obedient to the Shepherd's voice, we can follow Him and we are not lost.

If we can eat the word, we will grow to the spiritual maturity and be perfect like Jesus.

2. Being in the shepherding.

John 10:1

10:1 After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go.

The rod of shepherding will lead the sheep to enter the shepherding.

In the Tabernacle that was made by Moses, there were 3 rooms, namely The Court/salvation, The Holy Place/holiness, and the Most Holy Place/perfection. We are saved, but not perfect yet. Our position right now is in the Holy Place, which refers to the shepherding. In the Holy Place, there are 3 things which refer to the diligence in the 3 main services as follows.

- The Golden Candlestick, which refers to the General Service, a fellowship with God, the Holy Spirit, in His bounties.
- The Table of Showbread, which refers to the Bible Study Service, a fellowship with the Son of God in the word and His sacrifice.
- The Golden Altar of Incense, which refers to the Prayer Service, a fellowship with God, the Father, in His love.

In the shepherding there are two things that happen as follows.

- We are like a tree planted in the Temple of God, so we are never dry but we bear a lot of fruits.
- Our body, soul, and spirit are attached to God Trinity and we are not touched by Satan Trinity.

The results are as follows.

- We are like a cedar which flourishes.

Psalms 92:12-13

92:12 The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

92:13 Those who are planted in the house of the Lord Shall flourish in the courts of our God.

We get extra power from God so that we can be as follows.

- Strong in facing sins until the peak of sins. We keep on living in righteousness.
- Strong in facing the false teaching. We hold firmly to the true teaching.
- Strong in facing the tribulation in every aspect of life. We keep on believing and putting our hope in God.

Being strong means we do not fall down, but we keep on following and serving God until the finish line.

- We are like a palm tree.

It means that we are not affected by the dryness and infertility of the earth. The world is like an infertile desert where there are only fake satisfactions. Living as a palm tree means we are never spiritually thirsty, because we have the heaven satisfaction, so that we do not search for the fake satisfaction in the world and fall in the destruction of marriage. The palm tree keeps on holding to the unity and holiness of the marriage, until we enter the spiritual marriage when Jesus comes for the second time.

- We are fruitful until the end of time.

Psalms 92:14

92:14 They shall still bear fruit in old age; They shall be fresh and flourishing,

Matthew 24:32

24:32 "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near.

To be fruitful is to be changed, like a fig tree that becomes tender. We have to be changed from a hard-hearted man to a tender-hearted one.

Galatians 5:22-23

5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

5:23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

One of the fruit of the Spirit is gentleness.

Exodus 2:11-12

2:11 Now it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out to his brethren and looked at their burdens. And he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren.

2:12 So he looked this way and that way, and when he saw no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.

Moses used his intelligence to minister to God, and did not rely on Him. At the end, Moses became a murderer. For us now, it means that we destroy the body of Christ through malice, gossips, or other things.

Exodus 3:1-5

3:1 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

3:2 And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed.

3:3 Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn."

3:4 So when the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."

3:5 Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground."

After being in the shepherding, Moses took off his sandals, which means that he became gentle like a newborn baby.

Numbers 12:1-3

12:1 Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married; for he had married an Ethiopian woman.

12:2 So they said, "Has the Lord indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us also?" And the Lord heard it.

12:3 (Now the man Moses was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth.)

Gentleness is the ability to forgive and pray for others, to be silent and not to fight for oneself. If we are in silence, God will fight for us. Moses was used even more and more by God until He entrusted him with the Tabernacle and the two tables of stone. Until Moses' death, God was still fighting for him [Jude 1:9], and Moses was taken to Heaven.

Genesis 37:2-3

37:2 This is the history of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brothers. And the lad was with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to his father.

37:3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age. Also he made him a tunic of many colors.

Joseph was in the shepherding so that he was gentle, he did not compromise the sinful flesh. Joseph did not stand up for anyone, but God.

Acts 7:9-10

7:9 "And the patriarchs, becoming envious, sold Joseph into Egypt. But God was with him

7:10 and delivered him out of all his troubles, and gave him favor and wisdom in the presence of Pharaoh, king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house.

Joseph earned two things as follows.

- Wisdom and God's bounty to face the famine.
- A tunic of many colors, which refers to a successful and beautiful future.

Joseph was used in the ministry of the building of the body of Christ.

Acts 7:59-60

7:59 And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

7:60 Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Steven is the portrait of the church of the early rain. He was diligent in the shepherding [Acts 2:41-42], so he was gentle. Gentleness is the ability to forgive the sins of others and pray for those who consider us as their enemy. Gentleness is the ability to pray to God in the middle of misery.

Acts 7:55-56

7:55 But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God,

7:56 and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"

The result is Jesus is standing, which means as follows.

- Jesus respects our ministry. We are glorified and used in the ministry of the building of the body of Christ.
- The time has come for Jesus to help us, to take our burden and misery. Jesus is struggling to solve our problems right on His time.
- Jesus will come back to earth soon to change us to be as glorious as Him. We will be lifted up high in the glorious cloud.

God blesses us.