

General Service in Malang, December 22, 2013 (Sunday Morning)

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

Revelation 1:4-8 is entitled *Greeting the Seven Churches*.

Revelation 1:4

1:4 John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne,

The book of Revelation contains many figures of 7. Revelation 11:7 (7 churches), Revelation 1:12 (7 golden lampstands), Revelation 1:16, 20 (7 stars), Revelation 3:1 (7 spirits), Revelation 5:6 (7 horns, 7 spirits), Revelation 8:1 (7 seals), Revelation 8:6 (7 trumpets), Revelation 15:1 (7 angels and 7 plagues).

Figure 7 refers to perfection.

Seven churches in Asia are the congregations who have many weaknesses but they are willing to be sanctified to become perfect church or the Heavenly bride.

There are three matters related to figure 7 to build the perfect church of God as follows.

1. Seven loaves on the second breaking of loaves.

Mark 8:5-6,8

8:5 He asked them, "How many loaves do you have?" And they said, "Seven."

8:6 So He commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground. And He took the seven loaves and gave thanks, broke them and gave them to His disciples to set before them; and they set them before the multitude.

8:8 So they ate and were filled, and they took up seven large baskets of leftover fragments.

There are two times of the breaking of loaves as follows.

- o Five loaves and two fishes to feed five thousand men.

Mark 6:38-39,44

6:38 But He said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see." And when they found out they said, "Five, and two fish."

6:39 Then He commanded them to make them all sit down in groups on the green grass.

6:44 Now those who had eaten the loaves were about five thousand men.

The first breaking of loaves refers to the revival of Holy Spirit in the first rain. Loaves refer to the Word of God, and figure 5 refers to five wounds of Jesus or the sacrifice of Christ. Thus, five loaves mean the Word of God that brings sinful man to salvation. It equals to the gospel of salvation.

The signs of salvation are as follows.

- a. Believing or having faith to Jesus as the only Savior.
- b. Repenting.
- c. Water baptism and Holy Spirit baptism. Being newly born from water and Holy Spirit so we can have new life or Heavenly life, that is living in righteousness.

The gospel of salvation is to add the quantity of the member of the body of Christ.

Proverbs 12:26

12:26 The righteous should choose his friends carefully, For the way of the wicked leads them astray.

If we live in righteousness, we will be well shepherded. It equals to sitting down on the green grass, so we can be firm in righteousness and salvation. We are blessed up to our descendants.

- o Seven loaves in the second breaking to feed four thousand men [Mark 8:5-6,8].
Seven loaves refer to the Word of God that brings saved man to perfection as Jesus. It equals to the Word that is sharper than any two-edged sword, or the true teaching Word.
The true teaching Word sanctifies our whole life, starting from within the heart.

Matthew 15:19

15:19 For out of the heart proceed (1)evil thoughts, (2)murders, (3)adulteries, (4)fornications, (5)thefts, (6>false witness, (7)blasphemies.

If one's heart is filled with seven evil and unclean desires, as the quenched lamp, he will act blindly and cannot differ the right and wrong matters, the holy and unclean matters.

But if our heart is sanctified from seven evil and unclean desires, we can see God, and we can differ the right and wrong matters.

We are sanctified from sinful deeds up to the peak of sins, that is sins concerning eating-drinking (smoking, getting drunk, drugs abuse) and marrying-being given in marriage (sexuality sin with all its varieties, sexual deviation, wrong marriage, *et cetera*).

Our words will also be sanctified until we are perfect. It is started with no more deceit.

Revelation 14:5

14:5 And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

Until we are without fault in words. We only worship God with *Alleluia*.

James 3:2

3:2 For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.

The true teaching Word adds the quality until we are perfect as Jesus and worthy to welcome His second coming.

2. The seven spirits of God.

Revelation 4:5

4:5 And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

Isaiah 11:1-3

11:1 There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.

11:2 (1)The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, (2)The Spirit of wisdom and (3)understanding, (4)The Spirit of counsel and (5)might, (6)The Spirit of knowledge and (7)of the fear of the Lord.

11:3 His delight is in the fear of the Lord, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears;

The seven spirits of God means the Holy Spirit with its seven manifestations or seven perfect works to perfect us as the bride of God.

The work of the Holy Spirit makes us have the fear of the Lord and breathe with fearing Him.

Job 28:28

28:28 And to man He said, *Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, And to depart from evil is understanding.*

Fearing God means fearing to do sins and departing from evil, so we receive the wisdom from Heaven.

James 3:16-17

3:16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.

3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is first (1)pure, then (2)peaceable, (3)gentle, (4)willing to yield, (5)full of mercy and good fruits, (6)without partiality and (7)without hypocrisy.

The result is successfulness in the middle of crisis in this world.

Ecclesiastes 10:10

10:10 If the ax is dull, And one does not sharpen the edge, Then he must use more strength; But wisdom brings success.

Until we become the perfect church of God, and we are worthy to welcome His second coming.

3. Seven sprinklings of blood.

1 Peter 4:12-13

4:12 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you;

4:13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

It is flesh suffering with Jesus. We experience the fiery trial. The form is trial in health, economy, suffering in ministry, fasting, being slandered, *et cetera*. God lets us experience trial so we receive the Spirit of glory/ Shekinah Glory to renew us from flesh man to become spiritual man as Jesus.

Colossians 3:10-14

3:10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

3:11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

3:12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on (1)tender mercies, (2)kindness, (3)humility, (4)meekness, (5)longsuffering;

3:13 bearing with one another, and (6)forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

3:14 But above all these things put on (7)love, which is the bond of perfection.

New man has seven characters of Jesus as follows.

- Tender mercies means not judging sinful man and not agreeing sins.
- Kindness means being generous and like to give.
- Humility means the ability to confess our sins.
- Meekness means the ability to receive the true teaching Word no matter how hard it is.
- Longsuffering means being patient in suffering (do not grumble, do not blame the others), being patient in waiting God's time (do not put hope on the others, do not take your own way outside the Word because it is a deadlock and perdition).
- Forgiving the others' sin and forgetting it.
- Love, which is the bond of perfection.

God's love encourages us to love Him more than any other matters in this world (being obedient), and to love the others as loving ourselves, until we can love our enemy. It equals to stretching out both our hands to God and He will stretch out His hands to us. We live inside the loving hands of God. The results are as follows.

- The loving hands of the Redeemer are able to set us free from the bondage of sins and lies, up to the peak of sins.

Deuteronomy 7:7-8

7:7 The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples;

7:8 but because the Lord loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Whatever our sin is, God is able to set us free.

- We live in the loving hands of the Great Shepherd who are able to care and protect us in the difficulties in the last days until the days of antichrist.

Isaiah 49:14-16

49:14 But Zion said, 'The Lord has forsaken me, And my Lord has forgotten me.'

49:15 'Can a woman forget her nursing child, And not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, Yet I will not forget you.'

49:16 See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; Your walls are continually before Me.

The hands of the Great Shepherd are able to embrace us so everything become easy and light.

- We live in the loving hands of the King, the Heavenly bridegroom, who is able to make us strong and of good courage.

Zephaniah 3:16-18a

3:16 In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: 'Do not fear; Zion, let not your hands be weak.'

3:17 The Lord your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.'

3:18 'I will gather those who sorrow over the appointed assembly, I will'

We are strong and of good courage to be faithful and fervent in spirit in ministry.

The loving hands of the King are able to give victory. All problems will be solved in His time, even the impossible ones. Everything will be successful and beautiful in His time.

God renews and sanctifies us until we are as perfect as Jesus. Renewal is started from not being doubtful. Being doubtful equals to going down. Do not doubt God's power and the true teaching Word.

When Jesus comes for the second time, we will be renewed as glorious as Him and lifted up to the glorious clouds.

God blesses us.