

General Service in Malang, January 10, 2016 (Sunday Morning)

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

Revelation 3:14-22 is about the church of the Laodiceans.

The spiritual condition of the church of the Laodiceans or the church in the last days is being lukewarm. Physically they are rich and have need of nothing. However, spiritually they are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked. The consequence is being vomited by God and destroyed forever.

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.

God counsels, rebukes, and chastens the church of the Laodiceans or all of us to buy the richness of the Heaven so we are rich spiritually. We can satisfy and please God, and He will please us.

There are three types of the richness of the Heaven that must be bought as follows.

1. Gold refined in the fire.
2. White garment to cover the nakedness.
3. Oil to grease the eyes, so we can see.

ad. 3. Oil to grease the eyes.

It means we experience the anointing oil of Holy Spirit so we have opened eyes to see Jesus and His fields.

John 4:35

4:35 Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!

The field of God is the place of ministry.

1 Corinthians 3:9

3:9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building.

Looking at the field of God means we must be active in the ministry of building the perfect body of Christ or the Heavenly bride who is worthy to welcome Jesus' second coming on the glorious clouds.

The ministry of building the body of Christ is the revival of Holy Spirit in the last rain. It equals to the revival of the white horse.

Mark 11:1-2,7,11

11:1 Now when they drew near Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, He sent two of His disciples;

11:2 and He said to them, "Go into the village opposite you; and as soon as you have entered it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has sat. Loose it and bring it.

11:7 Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their clothes on it, and He sat on it.

11:11 And Jesus went into Jerusalem and into the temple. So when He had looked around at all things, as the hour was already late, He went out to Bethany with the twelve.

The Gentiles who are active in the revival of building the body of Christ can be illustrated as the colt that is sat by Jesus on the last journey to Jerusalem.

The Gentiles must fully surrender to God so He can sit on the colt.

Mark 11:7-8

11:7 Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their clothes on it, and He sat on it.

11:8 And many spread their clothes on the road, and others cut down leafy branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

There are three types of surrender as follows.

1. The surrender of branches.
It refers to surrender with preserving the flesh.

Matthew 16:21-23

16:21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.

16:22 Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!"

16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

Peter surrenders to God but preserving his logic or fleshly mind, that is rejecting the cross and being unwilling to sacrifice for the work of God. The consequences are as follows.

- a. Becoming a stumbling block and easily being stumbled.
- b. Denying God in facing something (suffering or blessing).
- c. Being equal with Satan, being unwilling to repent until unable to repent.

Fortunately Peter still receives the love and mercy of God. Peter can be made realize his sin through the crow of the rooster, that is the shepherding Word or the true teaching Word entrusted by God to a pastor to be preached to the congregation faithfully, continuously, and repetitively. Thus, the Word becomes spiritual food for the congregation to grow. The Word becomes warning so we do not fall in sins. The Word also becomes command so we know what we must do according to the will of God.

2. Insincere surrender.

Mark 11:8

11:8 And many spread their clothes on the road, and others cut down leafy branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

It is from the ones who surrender the clothes on the road but then take them back. It means surrender to get the fleshly matters (money, job position, *et cetera*) but it is not continued to enter the New Jerusalem.

The example is Judas Iscariot who surrenders himself to God to get money. Judas steals the belongings of God, that is the tithe and special offering. The consequence is Judas becomes a betrayer and sells Jesus. Judas betrays the true teaching Word and he is destroyed forever.

3. Full surrender.

Mark 11:1,7

11:1 Now when they drew near Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, He sent two of His disciples;

11:7 Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their clothes on it, and He sat on it.

The example is two disciples who throw their clothes on the colt so Jesus can sit on it to the New Jerusalem.

Two disciples represent the Word of God and the anointing of Holy Spirit, namely the Word that is sharper than any two-edged sword.

Thus, full surrender must be encouraged by the work of the true teaching Word in the anointing of Holy Spirit. The sword of the Word sanctifies us from the fleshly and earthly influences (richness, happiness, sadness, *et cetera*) that make us unfaithful, as well as from the sin up to its peak (sin concerning eating-drinking and marrying-being given in marriage).

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,

If we are holy, we can minister with the sincere love of God and obedience.

The practices of the full surrender are as follows.

- a. Surrendering sins through water baptism.

Matthew 3:14-16

3:14 And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"

3:15 But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.

3:16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.

Entering the true water baptism is because of doing the will of God. It must not be prevented or forced by man. The true water baptism is we must be baptized as Jesus is baptized. The requirement of the true water baptism is repentance, meaning stopping sinning to return to God. The execution of the true water baptism is one who has repented and died to sin must be buried in water together with Jesus, to be raised with Him in new life.

Romans 6:4

6:4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

New life is living in righteousness and becoming the slaves of righteousness. Doing unrighteous thing equals to being the slaves of Satan and such person will be destroyed forever.

b. Surrendering all worries.

Psalm 55:22

55:22 Cast your burden on the Lord, And He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.

1 Peter 5:7

5:7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

Worry causes one not to be righteous and faithful.

Worry appears because of not being shepherded.

After water baptism and living in righteousness, as well as becoming the slaves of righteousness, we must be well shepherded. The aims are as follows.

- We can surrender all worries to God. We can live in peace and everything becomes easy and light.
- We do not return to sin up to its peak. We are not deceived.
- We keep being strong and of good courage. We keep ministering God up to the end line.

Being shepherded is as a branch which abides on the true vine. Being shepherded must be encouraged by the true teaching Word. We must be shepherded on the place where we can eat the Word.

c. Full surrender to God.

Psalm 37:5-7

37:5 Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.

37:6 He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, And your justice as the noonday.

37:7 Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass.

The practices are as follows.

- Being silent, correcting ourselves through the work of the Word. If there is sin, we must confess it to God and the others. If we are forgiven, we must not repeat it. We must correct ourselves. Do not judge or blame the others. Sin and judgment separate us from God and the others.
- Worshiping God, falling down at His feet.

Mark 11:9-10

11:9 Then those who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"

11:10 Blessed is the kingdom of our father David That comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

We surrender our whole life in the merciful hands of God. The example is Mary who falls down when facing Lazarus who has died for four days.

John 11:32

11:32 Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."

Lazarus who has died for four days refers to rottenness in sins, marriage, finance, and impossibilities. If God lets us face problem, slander, suffering, *et cetera*, He wants us to fall down and confess that we are as clay that only depends on His mercy. Thus, He will act with His merciful hands to solve all our problems even the impossible ones.

God blesses us.