

General Service in Malang, January 17, 2021 (Sunday Morning)

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

Revelation 12: 3-18 is about the clear appearance of Satan or dragon which is completed with his activities on the last days as follows:

1. [Revelation 12:4a] His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven.
2. [Revelation 12:4b] Devouring.
3. [Revelation 12:7] Fighting.
4. [Revelation 12:13] Persecuting or catching up fast.
5. [Revelation 12:15] Causing the woman or the church of God to be carried away by the flood.
6. [Revelation 12:17] Making war or persecuting.

The target is the flesh and blood men who keep the flesh with all of its lusts or desires.

Ad. 3. **Fighting.**

Revelation 12:7-12

12:7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought,

12:8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.

12:9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

12:10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

12:11 "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

12:12 "Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."

Satan made the war or rebellion in heaven.

There are three phases in a war as follows:

1. Pre-war phase, namely the peaceful atmosphere.
2. War phase or during the war.
3. Post-war phase.

Ad. 2. War phase.

[Revelation 12:7] Satan or the dragon with his armies fought against Michael and his armies.

[Revelation 12:11] Satan was also defeated by the ones who believe God or His servants through the power of Holy Spirit, the blood of Jesus or the Lamb, and the testimonies.

Thus, the testimonies become a strong weapon from God for us to defeat Satan.

1 Peter 2:9-10

2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

2:10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

Therefore, God appoints us, the Gentiles, to be the priests and kings through His mercy or grace which costs the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. The main duty of priests and kings is testifying.

John 15:25-27

15:25 "But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, 'They hated Me without a cause.'

15:26 "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.

15:27 "And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

God commands us to testify in facing the activities of Satan that causes the difficulties, sorrows, sufferings, hatred, and persecution up to the murder on the last days or the dark time.

Why do we have to testify?

John 16:1-2

16:1 *"These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble.*

16:2 *"They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service.*

Not testifying, one must get disappointed and reject Jesus in facing the situation of the world on the last days. Therefore, God gives the comforter, namely Holy Spirit who gives us extra power, so we become the witness of God regardless anything we must face and sacrifice on the last days. One thing which must not be sacrificed is the true teaching Word.

What must be testified?

For example, the blind man from birth who had been healed by Jesus testified.

John 9:1

9:1 *Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth.*

The spiritual meanings of being blind from birth are as follows:

- Not experiencing the life renewal. It means keeping on living in the darkness of sins up to the peak, namely the sins concerning eating-drinking and marrying-being given in marriage.
- Not being able to see the Lord nor worship Him. It means the spiritual dryness or dissatisfaction.
- Being useless and not precious. It means being the burden and stumbling-block for others.
- Facing impossible problems, sufferings, and misery.

John 9:7

9:7 *And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.*

The blind man from birth was healed by Jesus miraculously, so he could see or live in the light. The darkness became the light. Such person was used by God for testifying.

John 9:11

9:11 *He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight."*

John 9:17

9:17 *They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."*

The blind man from birth who had been healed could testify about Jesus as the prophet.

Prophet refers to a man who becomes the mediator between God and men.

John 9:22-23

9:22 *His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue.*

9:23 *Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."*

The blind man from birth who had been healed could testify about Jesus as Christ or Messiah, the Anointed.

There are three offices which are anointed in the Old Testament, namely the king, high priest and priests or servants, and prophet.

John 9:33-35,38

9:33 *"If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing."*

9:34 *They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out.*

9:35 *Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?"*

9:38 *Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.*

The last testimony is that the blind man from birth who had been healed to be able to see could testify about Jesus as the Son of God.

In conclusion, the testimony about Jesus as the Son of God, man, King, and servant refers to the cross. That is the true testimony.

Matthew 16:16-18

16:16 *Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

16:17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

16:18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

The testimony from the blind man from birth who was healed refers to Peter's, namely the true testimony from heaven which makes us joyful. It is the strong testimony which can endure. It cannot be moved to make us defeat the death or Satan who reigns over the world.

One who testifies about the cross will never fall, except he is arrogant like Peter.

Testifying about the cross of Christ is the same as experiencing the cross.

The facts found in testifying about the cross of Christ or experiencing the cross are as follows:

1. Saliva refers to something which comes out of Jesus' mouth, the Word spoken by Jesus, the revelation of the Word though a verse that explains other verses in the Bible, or the true teaching Word.

John 9:6

9:6 When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay.

The hand which stirred the saliva on the ground refers to the power or anointing of Holy Spirit.

The ground refers to the sinful man.

The ground was mixed with saliva to be the clay.

Thus, testifying about the cross refers to willingly suffering in the flesh, feelings, and inward man for hearing and enjoying the true teaching Word in the anointing of Holy Spirit or the sword of the Word that openly shows our condition in the mire of sins which are smelly and disgusting. The Word comes to us as if we are despised, embarrassed, and humbled like we are being spat.

The cross and the sword cannot be separated from one another. One who rejects the sword is rejecting the cross. One who rejects the cross is rejecting the sword.

Enjoying the sword refers to understanding and believing the Word to become the firm faith in heart.

2. Obeying the true teaching Word regardless of any risk we have to take and anything we must sacrifice. We do not love our soul. We love God more than anything.

John 9:7

9:7 And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.

Thus, the true teaching Word or the revelation from God is only to be believed and obeyed, not to be discussed and criticized. It is also not to be the pride.

If the Word is made as the knowledge, it will only be discussed and criticized. It will also be the pride. So, it cannot be the faith. It cannot save and sanctify.

Obeying the true teaching Word is the same as stretching out the hands to God. As a result, God stretches out His hands to us, so the miracles happen. The blind man from birth can see. It means that we can see ourselves in our weakness, so we can confess it to God and others (the cross). After being forgiven, we must not repeat the sin. We must live in the light of righteousness and holiness up to the perfection. As a result, the help of God will come true. Impossible things can be made possible. God is able to create something that does not exist yet. We are sent by Him in the revival of Holy Spirit at the latter rain. We can testify and minister to God. It begins from the household, to the neighbors, in the shepherding, inter-shepherding, until the body of Christ is perfect.

3. Being isolated or expelled willingly because of Jesus or willingly suffering in the flesh, feelings, or inward man because of Jesus. It also means willingly experiencing the sprinkling of blood because of Jesus, righteousness, and the true teaching Word until someday we feel that we are left alone. Do not be afraid because Jesus has been left alone on the cross!

John 9:34-38

9:34 They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out.

9:35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?"

9:36 He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?"

9:37 And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you."

9:38 Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.

Thus, when we get the sufferings or the sprinkling of blood with Jesus because of righteousness, ministry, and so on, we are in the nearest condition to Jesus. We become God's priority, so we can see and talk to Him as well as confess honestly to Him and stretch out our hands to Him or worship Him. He stretches out His hands to us, so we are like a baby in His hands of lovingkindness.

God never forgets us although a mother may forget her baby. God always remembers, pays attention to, cares, and struggles for us.

The results are as follows:

- The merciful hands of God are able to preserve and protect us miraculously and abundantly like the apple of His eye although we are small and powerless in the midst of the great crisis in the world. It continues until the time when the Antichrist reigns over the world that the wings of a great eagle evacuate us to the wilderness for three and a half years.

Psalm 17:7-8

17:7 Show Your marvelous lovingkindness by Your right hand, O You who save those who trust in You From those who rise up against them.

17:8 Keep me as the apple of Your eye; Hide me under the shadow of Your wings,

- The merciful hands of God are able to give us quietness although we are small and powerless. We are given the peace in the midst of wind and waves in the sea of the world. We keep peaceful, so all things become easy and light. God is able to finish all impossible problems.

Isaiah 54:10

54:10 For the mountains shall depart And the hills be removed, But My kindness shall not depart from you, Nor shall My covenant of peace be removed," Says the LORD, who has mercy on you.

- God is able to make us successful and beautiful in the time of need in the midst of our powerlessness.

Genesis 39:21,23

39:21 But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

39:23 The keeper of the prison did not look into anything that was under Joseph's authority, because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made it prosper.

It continues until we reach the highest success when Jesus comes a second time, namely we are changed to be as perfect as He is and we become the heavenly bride who is ready to welcome Jesus' second coming on the glorious clouds and the door of heaven is opened for all of us.

God blesses you.