

General Service in Malang, March 05, 2017 (Sunday Morning)

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

Revelation 5:1

5:1 And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals.

The scroll in the right hand of God who sits on the throne of Heaven is the Holy Bible that we have in this world.

2 Timothy 3:15-17

3:15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

3:17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Holy Bible is a writing revealed by God to His servants. It gives the Heavenly wisdom as follows.

1. It leads us to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. It is called as the Gospel Word or Gospel of Salvation or Good News or milk.
2. It teaches, reproves, corrects, and instructs people in righteousness up to perfection. It is called as the teaching Word or the Word that is sharper than any two-edged sword or the Bride Tidings or solid food.

Hebrews 4:12

4:12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The scroll is written outside and inside. It means that the teaching Word that is sharper than any two-edged sword is able to sanctify our whole life, inward and outward.

1 Corinthians 5:11

5:11 But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner--not even to eat with such a person.

The sins that rule the body are a drunkard (smoking, getting drunk, consuming drugs) and being sexually immoral (sexuality sin with all its varieties, having an affair, mix marriage, marrying-divorcing).

The sins that rule the soul or inward life are being stingy (being unable to give for the work of God and the others who are in need), a reviler (saying right the wrong thing, saying wrong the wrong thing), and an extortioner. As long as one lies, there are all of these sins.

The sin that rules the spirit or outward life is an idolater. An idol means something that makes us unable to love, serve, and worship God.

If our inward and outward life or our body, soul, and spirit are controlled by sins, the consequence is being separated from the others. We cannot unite with the others. We are also separated from God so we dry spiritually. We have no passion in spiritual things. We get bored when hearing the Word, until we cannot pray and worship God.

Ephesians 2:1

2:1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

If it is continued, we will be separated from God forever and be destroyed in the hell.

Acts 2:37-38

2:37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

2:38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, we must experience inward and outward or body, soul, and spirit sanctification by the teaching Word that is sharper than any two-edged sword. The Word pierces up to the deepness of the hard heart, so we are cut to the heart and have a gentle heart. The practices are as follows.

1. Realizing, regretting, and confessing our sins to God and the others. After being forgiven, we must not repeat them anymore. It equals to repenting and dying to sins.
2. Entering the true water baptism.

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.

The true water baptism means that one who has died to sins must be buried in water together with Jesus, to be raised from water with Him and receive new life or Heavenly life.

Acts 8:27,35-39

8:27 So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship,

8:35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him.

8:36 Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?"

8:37 Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

8:38 So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.

8:39 Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.

The example of life who is pierced by the sword of the Word is the Ethiopian or the Gentiles.

Jeremiah 13:23

13:23 Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Then may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil.

The Ethiopian has black skin. It spiritually means that the Gentiles are black, namely doing sins up to the peak of sins (sins concerning eating-drinking and marrying-being given in marriage). The Gentiles are as the swine that returns to the wallow.

Revelation 13:2,5-6

13:2 Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.

13:5 And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months.

13:6 Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.

It is also related with the leopard that refers to antichrist. It spiritually means that the Gentiles say useless words and gossips, slander, even blaspheme God (saying right the wrong thing, saying wrong the right thing).

Can the Gentiles be renewed? The Gentiles can be renewed when they hear the true teaching Word until they are pierced and cut to the heart. They can repent and enter the water baptism.

If the true water baptism had only needed a little amount of water, the Ethiopian would not have needed to step out from the chariot. But it is clear in the Holy Bible that water baptism needs a lot of water. In Acts 8:39, it is written "came up out of the water". It is also experienced by Jesus. Without being buried in water, one has not been baptized yet.

Matthew 3:16

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.

1 John 3:6

3:6 Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.

If we do not do sins anymore but live in righteousness, we are within Jesus and He is within us. We can serve and worship Him.

1 John 3:24

3:24 Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

The proof that we are in God and God is in us is that we become the place of Holy Spirit. We like to serve Him. We think of spiritual things more than the physical ones.

The usefulnesses of Holy Spirit are as follows.

1. Holy Spirit controls our ears as the sound of a rushing mighty wind.

Acts 2:1-2

2:1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

2:2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

It means that our ears can hear the teaching Word that is hard and sharper than any two-edged sword. We can obey the Word until the flesh does not sound anymore.

Exodus 14:16,21

14:16 But lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.

14:21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided.

Thus, the result is that Holy Spirit as of the strong east wind will divide the Red Sea. It means as follows.

- Opening the doors in the world, meaning blessing and caring our life miraculously in the midst of difficulties in this world. God's work cannot be imitated or obstructed by anything in this world. There is successful and beautiful future. There is a way out from impossible problem.
- Opening the door of the Heaven, meaning that we live in righteousness and holiness. We prioritize the Heavenly matters more than the earthly ones. Thus, God will also prioritize us.

2. Holy Spirit controls our eyes, so the divided tongues, as of fire, appear.

Acts 2:3

2:3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.

It means that the eyes are anointed by Holy Spirit so we can see the work of God or His field. We can be faithful and fervent in spirit, faithful and righteous, and faithful and good in serving Him.

Matthew 25:21

25:21 His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

The result is that God will entrust us with great work, that is the ministry of building the perfect body of Christ, starting from within marriage, shepherding, inter-shepherding, until the Israelites and the Gentiles become one perfect body of Christ. The more we are used by God, the more we are joyful. It is until we enter the marriage supper of the Lamb of God when Jesus comes a second time.

We become God's eye so no grain of sand may enter us. The sand already enters the eye when one starts to become apathetic in serving God. Leaving the ministry is the same as being blind.

3. Holy Spirit helps us to worship God with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Acts 2:4

2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Romans 8:26

8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

We worship with other tongues. We groan and moan to God.

Revelation 12:1-3

12:1 Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars.

12:2 Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.

12:3 And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.

No matter how great a church of God is, her condition is as a pregnant woman in pain to give birth. She also faces the dragon. The way out is only one, that is groaning and moaning to God, crying out His name with a contrite heart or surrendering our whole life to Him.

The result is being able to give birth, meaning experiencing life renewal from the fleshly man to the spiritual one as Jesus. It is the greatest miracle. It is started with being strong and of good courage, not being disappointed nor leaving God whatever we face. We keep believing and putting our hope in God. We keep being patient waiting for His time. If God has not helped us yet, we must correct ourselves. If spiritual miracles happen, the physical one surely will happen too. The impossible thing will be made possible.

John 16:19

16:19 Now Jesus knew that they desired to ask Him, and He said to them, "Are you inquiring among yourselves about what I said, 'A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me'?"

Be careful, there is the term "a little while". It is the most powerless time or the peak of temptation. Do not be desperate and disappointed. Let us keep being strong and of good courage. Thus, God will help us. King Saul burnt the sacrifice when the time was "a little while". As the consequence, he failed and lost his kingdom. Let us keep being strong and of good courage, as well as being patient in waiting God's time. Thus, He will help us right at His time, even perfect and lift us up to the glorious clouds on His second coming, until we sit together with Him on the throne of Heaven forever.

God blesses us.