

General Service in Malang, May 02, 2010 (Sunday Morning)

Matthew 25:1,13

25:1. *"Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.*
25:13 *"Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.*

Jesus will come a second time in glory as the King of kings, as Heavenly Bridegroom.

None knows the time. Therefore, the Church of the Lord must be watchful always to welcome His second coming.

What have to be watched is **BURNING LAMP**.

Having dark and quenched lamp, one will be left at the time of Jesus' second coming and go toward perdition.

There are two requirements to have the burning lamp as follows:

1. Receiving Bride Tidings.

Matthew 25:6-7

25:6 *"And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!'*
25:7 *"Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps.*

2. Having oil for supply.

Matthew 25:3-4

25:3 *"Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them,*
25:4 *"but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.*

Ad. 1. Receiving Bride Tidings.

There are two kinds of the preaching of Gospel below:

1. Gospel of Salvation = Gospel = milk = Good News [Ephesians 1:13].

It is the gospel preaching about Jesus' first coming into the world to die on the cross in order to save sinful men through their believing in Jesus, repenting, being baptized of water and of Holy Spirit to live in righteousness.

2. The light of the gospel of the glory of Christ = teaching Word = solid food = Bride Tidings.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

4:3 *But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,*
4:4 *whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.*

Bride Tidings is a gospel preaching about Jesus' second coming in glory as the King of kings, as Heavenly Bridegroom to sanctify and perfect the Church to become His Bride ready to welcome Jesus' second coming.

Why do we have to receive Bride Tidings?

Matthew 25:6

25:6 *"And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!'*

It is because the Church is at the darkest night. Bride Tidings is the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ giving light in the dark of night so that the Church does not live in the dark of the world but in the light with the burning lamp.

The lamp will be quenched if there is no Bride Tidings = falling star.

Bride Tidings is not the possession of GPT only but of all Churches because it is written in Holy Bible.

Revelation 12:3-4

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.*

12:4 *His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.*

The reason of the falling of stars is below:

1. Wormwood = the bitterness of heart, envy, anger without any cause up to anger without love.

Revelation 8:10-11

8:10 *Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers*

and on the springs of water.

8:11 The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.

2. The wind of temptation in all aspects.

Revelation 6:13

6:13 And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind.

3. The tail of dragon, referring to unclean sin, sins concerning eating-drinking and sexuality (there is reproductive organ in dragon's tail) as well as false teaching.

Revelation 12:4a

12:4 His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth.

Isaiah 9:15

9:15 The elder and honorable, he is the head; The prophet who teaches lies, he is the tail.

The kinds of false teaching are below:

- The teaching of Jezebel that allows woman to teach and have authority over men.
- The teaching of Pharisees which allows Christians to divorce and marry again.
- The teaching of Sadducees which legalizes polygamy (one man with many women) and polyandry (one woman with many men).

The process of the falling of stars is as follows:

1. Doubtful heart = the lamp which is almost quenched.

Doubt means not expressly rejecting other doctrines nor expressly holding fast one true teaching nor holding fast the promises of God.

We have to hold fast one true teaching Word. Holy Bible is much more absolute than science.

Why does a man doubt? It is because of there is no good conscience.

Rejecting the true teaching because of there is no good conscience, one is drowned in flood and goes into perdition.

1 Peter 3:20-21

3:20 who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.

3:21 There is also an antitype which now saves us--baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

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.

Being baptized of water, our heart becomes good conscience, that is to say obedient heart. The requirement of being baptized in water is repentance. The right implementation is through being buried or plunged in water.

2. Falling from faith = quenched lamp.

Falling from faith means leaving the true teaching to follow other teaching. It also means denying God.

Consequently, one perishes forever.

The example of the falling star is Peter.

Peter had been doubtful and his lamp was almost quenched, then he denied the Lord and his lamp was quenched already.

Peter is the description of great servant of God.

Matthew 14:28-30

14:28 And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."

14:29 So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.

14:30 But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"

Facing temptation, Peter became doubtful and began to sink = his lamp was almost quenched.

Fortunately, he lifted up his hands to the Lord.

It is the thing God waits from us, that is to say lifting up our hands to Him = believing in Him and entrusting ourselves fully to Him as well as crying His name only.

Afterward, He will stretch His hand to us, to lift up our lives from sinking.

Formerly, Jesus came walking on the water. It points to the power of lifting up, the power of glory. Now, the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ will be shined to those who are willing to receive Bride Tidings, to lift us up from drowning.

Lifting our hands up to the Lord = believing and entrusting ourselves to the true teaching Word.

Luke 22:54-57

22:54 Having arrested Him, they led Him and brought Him into the high priest's house. But Peter followed at a distance.

22:55 Now when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them.

22:56 And a certain servant girl, seeing him as he sat by the fire, looked intently at him and said, "This man was also with Him."

22:57 But he denied Him, saying, "Woman, I do not know Him."

John 18:25-26

18:25 Now Simon Peter stood and warmed himself. Therefore they said to him, "You are not also one of His disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not!"

18:26 One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of him whose ear Peter cut off, said, "Did I not see you in the garden with Him?"

Nevertheless, Peter was still tested once again. He denied Jesus.

The beginning of his denying to Jesus is because of warming himself near fire, referring to false teachings. It indeed gives warmth, meaning physical advantages, but giving an end in perdition.

Actually, Peter has denied three times and his lamp is quenched to go toward perdition.

Luke 22:60-62

22:60 But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are saying!" Immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed.

22:61 And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times."

22:62 So Peter went out and wept bitterly.

John 21:17-19

21:17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep."

21:18 "Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish."

21:19 This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me."

The crowing of rooster is shepherding Word preached repetitiously.

Shepherding Word in Bride Tidings = the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ which is able to make the quenched lamp burning again.

The rooster crowed and Peter was grieved.

Bride Tidings pierces our heart so that our heart may become meek to confess all our weaknesses and failures.

If we have already been meek, we will be able to stretch our hands to the Lord as follows:

- Loving God more than everything.
- Being obedient.
- Believing and entrusting ourselves to the Lord.

The Lord as Great Shepherd, Heavenly Bridegroom, will lift us up from drowning until we are on glorious clouds. All matters that have been in zero point will be lifted up to become in positive point until we are lifted up on the clouds at the time of Jesus' second coming.

1 Peter 5:6

5:6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

God blesses you.