

General Service in Malang, May 21, 2017 (Sunday Morning)

Grace and peace in the love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Revelation 6 in the Tabernacle refers to the staff of Aaron that had budded, flowered, and borne fruit. No matter how great a man is, he is just as a fragile, small, and useless staff, but God is able to help, so we can bud, flower, and bear fruit.

Revelation 6 is about the opening of the first to sixth seal.

Revelation 8 is about the opening of the seventh seal.

The seven seals equal to the seven judgments of Holy Spirit God to the world.

Actually, there are three times seven judgments to the world as follows.

1. Revelation 6 - Revelation 8:1-5 is about the seven judgments of seal of Holy Spirit God.
2. Revelation 8:6 - Revelation 11:19 is about the seven judgments of trumpet of the Son of God.
3. Revelation 16:1-21 is about the seven judgments of plague of Father God.

Twenty-one judgments by God the Trinity will peak on the doomsday when Jesus comes a second time. It will end with the judgment of the everlasting fire in the hell.

Our attitude is making effort to be set free from the judgments of God.

There are three ways to set us free from God's judgment to the world as follows.

1. Repentance, meaning stopping sinning to return to God.

Romans 2:4-5

2:4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

2:5 But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,

God gives us the medium to repent as follows.

- The goodness of God, so we can have the body, soul, and spirit. Man can repent and must repent.
- The forbearance of God, namely He has not come for the second time yet and He still gives us long life. If God still gives us time, He gives us chance to repent.
- The longsuffering of God, namely all kind of sins can be forgiven by Him.

All of us can repent, the rest is that whether we want to or not.

The process of repentance is that we must hear the teaching Word that is sharper than any two-edged sword to point our sins. We can realize and regret our sin, as well as confess it to God and the others. If we are forgiven, we must not repeat it again.

Revelation 21:8

21:8 But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

We must repent starting from the eight sins that bring us directly to God's judgments up to the everlasting hell.

- Being coward, meaning being afraid of something until opposing God and His Word.
- Being unbelieving.
- Being abominable.
- Murderer, hatred.
- Being sexually immoral.
- Sorcerer.
- Idolater. Idol is everything that prevents us to serve God.
- Liar. Lie is the finale of sins. If there is lie, it means that there are the other seven sins.

Jeremiah 9:5

9:5 Everyone will deceive his neighbor, And will not speak the truth; They have taught their tongue to speak lies; They weary themselves to commit iniquity.

One will be lazy to repent until not be able to repent. His heart will be as hard as stone.

Romans 2:5

2:5 But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,

Being unwilling to repent equals to treasuring up the wrath of God until being drowned into the lake of burning sulfur.

Let us use the time that God gives to us especially to repent, so we are set free from sins and the wrath of God. Without repentance, all great things will be useless and destroyed forever.

2. Water baptism.

Matthew 3:7-9

3:7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

3:8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance,

3:9 and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.

The true water baptism equals to fleeing from the wrath to come. Actually water baptism is only for the Israelites or the physical descendants of Abraham. However, because a part of Israelites has hardened their heart, there is spiritual degradation from the descendant of Abraham to the brood of vipers. It is the part which can be filled by the Gentiles. The Gentiles as the hard stones can be lifted up as the descendants of Abraham through the true water baptism.

The process is one who has died to sins must be buried in water together with Jesus, to be raised with Him and receive new life, that is the Heavenly life.

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,

New life means that we experience the renewal of a hard, evil, and unclean conscience to the good and obedient one. We can be obedient until the flesh does not sound anymore.

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,

We are sanctified, so we can love the others as loving ourselves. We say good and right words to the others. We do good and right deeds to them, as well as think good and right about them. It is until we can love the one who hates us and we can repay evil with goodness.

Ephesians 4:11-12

4:11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

4:12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

If we obey God, live in holiness, and love one another, we will be equipped with the ministry and gifts of Holy Spirit. We will be used in the ministry of building the perfect body of Christ, starting from within marriage, shepherding, and inter-shepherding.

1 Peter 2:5

2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

We are used as the living stones in the building of the body of Christ. The living stone means that we live from great grace of God, so we can live wherever, whenever, under any situation and condition, up to the eternal life.

The living stone equals to the beautiful stone. It means that the great graceful hands of God make our life beautiful and successful.

God never fools us. The guarantee is the cross of Christ. He is willing to die on the cross. Jesus who is beautiful and

glorious is willing to be disfigured on the cross, to make our bad life successful and beautiful.

3. Surviving in waiting and welcoming Jesus' second coming on the glorious clouds.

Revelation 6:16-17

6:16 and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!

6:17 For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

Be watchful, do not be left on His second coming.

Malachi 3:1-3

3:1 "Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," Says the Lord of hosts.

3:2 "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire And like launderers' soap.

3:3 He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the Lord An offering in righteousness.

How can we survive?

All of us as the priests and kings must be sanctified by two things as follows.

- The launderers' soap, namely the teaching Word that is repeated and sharper than any two-edged sword. It equals to the shepherding Word.
The shepherding Word feeds the congregation to strengthen and sanctify us.
The shepherding Word is repeated to clean the stains in the tunic of ministry.

Jude 1:11-12

1:11 Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

1:12 These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots;

The stain of Cain is envy and hatred without any reasons. It must be sanctified, so we can love one another, even love the one who hates us.

The stain of Balaam is serving God with the aim to get physical salary or as profession. It must be sanctified so we can serve with sacrifice, giving our time, energy, money, *et cetera*, for God.

The stain of Korah is being disobedient or godless. It must be sanctified, so we can be obedient until the flesh does not sound anymore.

Ephesians 5:26-27

5:26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,

5:27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

Jesus sanctifies us with the launderers' soap until we become as perfect as Him. The tunic of ministry becomes the bright and clean fine linen to welcome His second coming.

- The refiner's fire.

1 Peter 4:12-14

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.

4:14 If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.

It is the fiery trial or physical and spiritual suffering because of Jesus. Thus, the Spirit of glory will be poured in our life.

The Spirit of glory makes us joyful in the midst of sufferings. The Spirit of glory renews us from the fleshly man who

is despicable to the spiritual one who is glorious, to be worthy to enter the New Jerusalem.

The living stone is needed to be purified until we become the precious one in the New Jerusalem.

Revelation 21:11

21:11 having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.

The jasper stone means that we are faithful and fervent in spirit in ministering God. We are faithful, believe and fully surrender our life to Him.

1 Samuel 30:6

30:6 Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in the Lord his God.

David can survive in distress and strengthen himself in God. Thus, he is helped by God.

1 Kings 17:11-15

17:11 And as she was going to get it, he called to her and said, "Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand."

17:12 So she said, "As the Lord your God lives, I do not have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar; and see, I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die."

17:13 And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring it to me; and afterward make some for yourself and your son."

17:14 For thus says the Lord God of Israel: "The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth."

17:15 So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for many days.

The widow of Zarephath faces financial crisis (the antichrist who will rule the world). However, she must experience the test of faith to be able to give God's request. She keeps being faithful and believing God. Thus, He cares her in the midst of difficulties up to the days of antichrist.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego face the false worship and unsuccessful future (they will be put in the furnace). However, they keep being faithful and believing God. Thus, He is able to care, protect, solve our problems, until give us the beautiful and successful future.

God blesses us.