

General Service in Malang, October 18, 2015 (Sunday Morning)

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

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

They are the seventh church or the last one that represent us as the church in the last days.

Revelation 3:14-16

3:14 "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:

3:15 "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.

3:16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

The condition of the church of the Laodiceans is very rich physically, but very poor spiritually. Their spiritual condition is lukewarm, so they are vomited and thrown away forever. It represents the condition of the congregation in the last days.

Therefore, Jesus appears as the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, to help the church of the Laodiceans and all of us.

The appearance of Jesus as the Faithful and True Witness means as follows.

1. Jesus keeps being faithful and loving the church of the Laodiceans or all of us. He pays great attention whatever our condition is.

The proof is He is still willing to convey His Word, and we are still willing to hear it. As long as we hear the Word of God, we are within the great attention of God and we can be helped. However, no matter how great one is, if he cannot hear the Word of God, he will get worse and be destroyed forever.

2. Jesus wants to help and lift up the church of the Laodiceans or all of us, whatever our condition is. He wants to justify and perfect our life until we become the Heavenly bride who sits together with Him on the throne of Heaven forever.

Revelation 3:21

3:21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

Jesus is the Head and we are His body. The Head and the body cannot be separated forever.

Jesus appears as the Amen (surely, certainly) means He is definitely able to help us right in His time. It only depends on whether we are willing to be helped or not.

The process of the lifting up of the church of the Laodiceans or all of us from vomit to become the Heavenly bride is as follows.

1. Jesus appears as the Faithful and True Witness to justify us with His blood, so we can live in righteousness.

There are three levels of righteousness as follows.

- a. Righteousness because of forgiveness by the blood of Jesus.

The requirement is confessing our sins honestly to God (vertical) and the others (horizontal). The blood of Jesus will forgive and cover our sins until there is no trace at all. He sees us as we never sin.

- b. Righteousness because of being set free from sins.

It means we do not sin anymore although there are threats, advantages, chances, *et cetera*. It equals to hating sins.

- c. Being righteous as Jesus is righteous.

1 John 3:9,7

3:9 Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

3:7 Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.

We cannot be deceived by false teachings or gossips.

2. Jesus appears as the Faithful and True Witness to lift us up as the priests and kings, that is the instruments of righteousness.

Romans 6:12-13

6:12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.

6:13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

We become the servants of God who minister Him with faithfulness and righteousness, according to the ministry entrusted by God to us, until the end line, that is until we die or Jesus comes a second time.

Living in righteousness and becoming the instruments of righteousness equals to becoming righteous people.

Psalms 5:12

5:12 For You, O Lord, will bless the righteous; with favor You will surround him as with a shield.

The result is God blesses the righteous up to his descendants and he becomes blessing to the others. God surrounds him with His favor. God protects the righteous so he is set free from the cursed ambience in the world, as well as from the ambience of sin up to its peak, that is sin concerning eating-drinking and marrying-being given in marriage. We live in peace and everything becomes easy and light.

3. Jesus appears as the Beginning of the creation of God, meaning He is the foremost from each creature. He is able to create everything with His power. He is able to create sinful men to become new creature as perfect as Him. He is able to renew flesh men to become spiritual ones as perfect as Him, to become His bride who is worthy to sit together with Him on His throne.

Revelation 21:2,9-10

21:2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

21:9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife."

21:10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

The bride equals to the New Jerusalem.

What must be renewed?

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.

We must appear like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. It refers to a sincere, honest, and assured heart. We let 'yes' be 'yes' and 'no' be 'no'. We are honest especially about God and the true teaching Word.

Titus 2:7

2:7 in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility,

It is continued with being honest within marriage and financial matters, until being honest in everything.

A sincere heart believes Jesus whatever we face.

A sincere heart becomes a house of prayer, the place of Holy Spirit. It is the place where Jesus passes over.

An insincere heart will become the den of thieves. It will become the pathway of the serpent. This kind of life will labor and be heavy laden.

The usefulness of Holy Spirit is as follows.

- a. Holy Spirit as of a rushing mighty wind.

Acts 2:2-4

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.

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

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

Exodus 14:21

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.

The rushing mighty wind is able to divide the Red Sea when the Israelites go to Canaan.

Now, Holy Spirit is able to divide the spiritual Red Sea when the church of God will be lifted up to the glorious clouds to enter the New Jerusalem or Spiritual Canaan.

It means as follows.

- Holy Spirit has the power to care our life miraculously, either physically or spiritually.
- Holy Spirit has the power to help us so there is way out from every problem. The impossible will become possible.
- Holy Spirit gives the Heavenly joy that cannot be affected by anything.

b. Holy Spirit as the tongue of fire.

Acts 2:3

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

Holy Spirit helps in facing the fiery trial or suffering because of Jesus. It is so that we experience renewal of life from the flesh man to the spiritual one. Renewal of life is started from the tongue is renewed so we can say good and right word, we can testify and worship God.

Acts 10:44-46

10:44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word.

10:45 And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.

10:46 For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered,

Actually, Holy Spirit is only for the Israelites. By the mercy of God, the Gentiles can also receive Holy Spirit.

1 Peter 3:10

3:10 For "He who would love life—let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking deceit.

If the tongue is good, everything will be good, successful, and beautiful. When Jesus comes a second time, we will be as perfect as Him. We only cry out "Alleluia". We become the Heavenly bride and sit together with Him on His throne.

God blesses us.