

General Service in Malang, October 29, 2023 (Sunday Morning)

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

Revelation 21:1

21:1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.

John the apostle saw the new heaven and the new earth because the old ones had passed away. Seeing the new one refers to the renewal of attention.

1 Corinthians 7:29-32

7:29 But this I say, brethren, the time is short, so that from now on even those who have wives should be as though they had none,

7:30 those who weep as though they did not weep, those who rejoice as though they did not rejoice, those who buy as though they did not possess,

7:31 and those who use this world as not misusing it. For the form of this world is passing away.

7:32 But I want you to be without care. He who is unmarried cares for the things of the Lord--how he may please the Lord.

The heaven and earth are passing away now. It will be destroyed on the doomsday. Therefore, our attention must not only be towards the worldly things in this very short time so that we do not perish together with the world. Our attention must be renewed, so it focuses on the godly matters and we get the eternal life in the new heaven and new earth, namely the New Jerusalem, together with God forever.

One of the ways of God to renew our attention is through the suffering.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.

4:17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,

4:18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

God lets us experience the sufferings in all aspects of life not to make us disappointed or hopeless until leaving Him, but to renew our attention so that we pay more attention to the things of God or prioritize Him more than anything.

1. Paying attention to the things of God is related to the heaven and earth that will pass away. It means paying attention to the words of Jesus or the revelation of the Word through a verse that explains other verses in the Bible or the true teaching Word. We get the wisdom.

Matthew 24:35

24:35 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

2. Paying attention to the mercy of God.

Psalms 107:43

107:43 Whoever is wise will observe these things, And they will understand the lovingkindness of the LORD.

The example of paying attention to the Word and mercy of God is as follows.

Matthew 8:5-8

8:5 Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him,

8:6 saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented."

8:7 And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him."

8:8 The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed.

A centurion who belonged to the Gentile and had the high position in the world was powerless because of facing the servant who was lying at home paralyzed and dreadfully tormented.

Being paralyzed physically means that one is powerless in facing the impossible bodily disease, economic crisis, study, problems in the world, gloomy future life, and impossibilities.

Being paralyzed spiritually means unfaithfulness until leaving the service and ministry to God.

Being paralyzed on the bed refers to committing sins up to the peak, namely the sins concerning eating-drinking such as smoking, getting drunk, and drugs abuse as well as the sins concerning marrying-being given in marriage such as adultery, pornography, wrong marriage, and destruction in marriage and children.

Being paralyzed refers to hoping in man, not in God.

Not being helped, one suffers dreadfully. His life is never beautiful until perishing.

How great a man in the world is, he cannot finish the paralysis.

Matthew 8:8

8:8 The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed."

Therefore, the Gentiles must get the renewal of attention. Do not focus on problems, or else the distress can happen until there is no relationship with God (one supposes that there is no God), but disappointment, hopelessness until leaving God, and perdition together with the world. On the contrary, we must focus on godly things, namely His mercy and true teaching Word that are greater than anything in the world to be able to help us.

Matthew 8:7-8

8:7 And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him."

8:8 The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed."

The attitudes of the Gentile centurion who was great in his high position, intelligence, and riches are as follows.

1. [verse 8a] Paying attention to the mercy of God, namely feeling unworthy of receiving God because of having many sins and infirmities. It means not insisting and blaming at God when there is no help yet.
2. [verse 8b] Paying attention to the Word of God, namely a word spoken by the mouth of God. It means hearing the true teaching Word with a humble heart, namely feeling unworthy to hear the true teaching Word like a dog only licking vomit, not the crumbs, but has been made worthy by the mercy of God. We hear the Word with a need and high appreciation, so there is no word that vanishes away like a dog licking the crumbs until there is no remnant of it anymore. We are always fervent in spirit in hearing the Word without getting bored.

If the Gentiles pay attention to the things of God more than the worldly things, they will get the work of the Trinity of God.

Matthew 8:9-10

8:9 "For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

8:10 When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!"

The work of the Trinity of God can be described as the work of army or military as follows.

1. The general refers to Father God or the Lord.
2. The centurion refers to the Son of God or Jesus.
3. The soldier refers to Holy Spirit God or Christ.

The results are as follows:

1. We get the work of Father God, namely sending Jesus, His only Son, to the world to die on the cross for saving the sinners.
Jesus is the only man who is sinless and able to save sinful men through His death on the cross. The Savior of the world is only Jesus.

The Gentiles get the work of Father God through believing Jesus as the only Savior.

John 6:44

6:44 "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day."

We get the power of Jesus' resurrection. When we are let die, we will be resurrected in the body of glory.

2. The work of the Son of God is speaking a word as follows.

- "It is finished".

John 19:30

19:30 So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

It means that Jesus has died on the cross to bear all our sins and curses or judgments of sins, except the sin of unbelieving Jesus and not confessing sin.

Therefore, we who believe Jesus must also cry out "It is finished." It means that we must confess all our sins to God and other people. Being forgiven, we must not repeat the sin, but repent. After the sin is finished, all problems can also be finished by God.

- "Go" and "Come".

Matthew 8:9

8:9 "For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

John 16:7

16:7 "Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you."

Jesus must go. It means that Jesus must die on the cross, rise, and ascend to heaven to pour out Holy Spirit.

"Come" means that Holy Spirit comes in our lives who are hearing the Word now. Jesus baptizes us with Holy Spirit. The process is through believing Jesus as the only Savior, repenting or being dead to sin, and getting the water and Holy Spirit baptism.

If one person can be righteous in a family, the whole family can be saved.

We are changed by Holy Spirit. It starts from the heart that can be humble and obedient.

Holy Spirit is able to help us to live in righteousness and holiness. We are equipped with the ministry and gifts of Holy Spirit for being used in the ministry for the edification of the perfect Christ's body.

3. The work of Holy Spirit God.

Romans 5:5

5:5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Holy Spirit pours the love of God, so we can be strong and of good courage or not disappointed and hopeless until leaving God, but keep on believing and hoping Him.

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.

Holy Spirit helps us to pray and worship God. The flesh is dry, so it cannot worship God. It becomes a persecution to the soul because our spirit comes from the Spirit of God.

We can be broken-hearted or feel that we are unworthy and unable. We only stretch out the hands of faith to God. As a result, God stretches out His merciful hands or the grace to perform miracles.

It continues up to the last miracle, namely Holy Spirit changes us until we are perfect for welcoming Jesus' second coming.

God blesses you.