

General Service Malang, January 15, 2017 (Sunday Morning)

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

Revelation 4:8-11

4:8 The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!"

4:9 Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever,

4:10 the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:

4:11 "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."

There are two activities on the throne of Heaven as follows.

1. [Revelation 4:8] The activity of sanctification.

We must experience the sanctification of our body, spirit, and soul, that is the sanctification of our whole life, as experienced by the four living creatures on the throne of Heaven. Each activity within the church of God must lead to the activity of sanctification.

There are four activities within the church of God that are represented by the four living creatures as follows.

- a. The activity of welfare, that is giving and visiting. It is represented by the first creature like a lion, that is the Lion of Judah or the King. This activity is under the banner of the tribe of Judah. It must be done with holiness so one does not become as Judas Iscariot.

Numbers 10:14

10:14 The standard of the camp of the children of Judah set out first according to their armies; over their army was Nahshon the son of Amminadab.

- b. The activity of general ministry, that is maintaining the church building and devices. It is represented by the second creature like a calf, that is the servant. This activity is under the banner of the tribe of Reuben. It must be done with holiness so one does not become wicked and lazy.

Numbers 10:18

10:18 And the standard of the camp of Reuben set out according to their armies; over their army was Elizur the son of Shedeur.

- c. The activity of administration or correspondence. It is represented by the third creature like a man. This activity is under the banner of the tribe of Ephraim. It must be done with holiness so everything is well organized.

Numbers 10:22

10:22 And the standard of the camp of the children of Ephraim set out according to their armies; over their army was Elishama the son of Ammihud.

- d. The activity of priesthood. It is represented by the fourth creature like a flying eagle. It must be done with holiness so one does not become as Hophni and Phinehas. This activity is under the banner of the tribe of Dan.

Numbers 10:25

10:25 Then the standard of the camp of the children of Dan (the rear guard of all the camps) set out according to their armies; over their army was Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai.

2. [Revelation 4:9-11] The activity of worship.

The peak of ministering God is worship prayer. The peak of worship prayer is tearing the flesh with all its lust, emotion, and ambition. The veil is torn so the Ark of Covenant is seen. We become the Heavenly bride who is ready to welcome Jesus' second coming.

If we want to live in the ambience of the throne of Heaven in the midst of this cursed world, we must live in holiness and worship God.

Song of Solomon 2:4

2:4 He brought me to the banqueting house, And his banner over me was love.

The banner is God's love. The banqueting house is the marriage supper of the Lamb of God on the glorious clouds on His second

coming.

Revelation 19:9

19:9 Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."

The activities on the throne of Heaven equal to the activities under the banner, that is the activities to bring the Israelites to become the Heavenly bride to enter the marriage supper of the Lamb of God, a thousand years Kingdom of Peace, up to the eternal Kingdom of Heaven.

How about the Gentiles?

Isaiah 5:26-27

5:26 He will lift up a banner to the nations from afar, And will whistle to them from the end of the earth; Surely they shall come with speed, swiftly.

5:27 No one will be weary or stumble among them, No one will slumber or sleep; Nor will the belt on their loins be loosed, Nor the strap of their sandals be broken;

God lifts up a banner to the Gentiles by whistling. It equals to the revelation of the Word of God that does not look like we wish for. But it is to point the hidden sins and renew the Gentiles from the dog to the sheep of God, until we are worthy to enter the marriage supper of the Lamb.

The attitudes of the Gentiles to the banner are as follows.

1. Coming swiftly and immediately, not postponing time. If we reject or postpone the time when God encourages us, sometime there will be no more chance.
2. Not being weary, bearing heavy burden, or leaving the ministry. We minister with faithfulness and righteousness until the end line.

Genesis 19:17,26

19:17 So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, "Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed."

19:26 But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

The example of the activities of the banner of God's love is bringing Lot and his family to leave Sodom and Gomorrah (being saved) and bringing them to the mountains so they will not be destroyed. But unfortunately, Lot's wife looks behind.

Revelation 21:9-10

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 mountains refer to the city of the New Jerusalem or the perfect bride of God.

In the last days, we, as the saved people, must be active in the revival of building the perfect body of Christ until we reach perfection. We become the perfect bride of God to enter the marriage supper of the Lamb of God, the One-Thousand-Year Kingdom of Peace, and sit on the throne of Heaven forever.

We must be watchful so none becomes as Lot's wife who fails and is destroyed forever.

Luke 17:28-30,32,34,24

17:28 Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built;

17:29 but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all.

17:30 Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.

17:32 Remember Lot's wife.

17:34 I tell you, in that night there will be two men in one bed: the one will be taken and the other will be left.

17:24 For as the lightning that flashes out of one part under heaven shines to the other part under heaven, so also the Son of Man will be in His day.

Welcoming Jesus' second coming, there are only two possibilities, that is looking behind and seeing the world, or looking the flash.

There are two types of the preaching of the Word as follows.

1. The Gospel of Salvation or the Gospel Word or the Good News or milk.

Ephesians 1:13

1:13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

Proverbs 25:25

25:25 As cold water to a weary soul, So is good news from a far country.

It is the gospel that preaches about Jesus' first coming as the sinless man. He must die on the cross to save sinful men. It equals to taking out Lot from Sodom and Gomorrah.

Our attitude is that we must receive the Gospel of Salvation. We hear and obey it, so we are saved and not judged. The proof of being saved is believing Jesus, repenting (stopping sinning), and entering water and Holy Spirit baptism. We receive new life or Heavenly life, that is living in righteousness.

2. The light (flash) of the gospel of the glory of Christ or the true teaching Word that is sharper than any two-edged sword or the Bride Tidings or solid food.

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.

It is the gospel that preaches about Jesus' second coming in glory as the Head, the King of kings, and the Heavenly bridegroom, to sanctify the saved lives up to perfection as the Heavenly bride. It equals to going up to the mountains of the New Jerusalem.

The negative attitudes are as follows.

- One does not want to see the flash or the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ because of hardening the heart. He will only see Sodom and Gomorrah and be destroyed as Lot's wife.
- One hears but disobeys the Word.

The positive attitude is seeing the flash or the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ with a gentle heart. We hear, obey, and practice the Word. Thus, we experience the ministry of Jesus as the Head, the Heavenly Bridegroom. Practicing the Word equals to stretching out both our hands to God, and He will work.

The results are as follows.

- Jesus as the Head saves us. He cares and protects us from financial collapse and broken marriage. We are always within the true and holy marriage, until we reach the perfect one on His second coming.

Ephesians 5:22-24

5:22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

5:23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

5:24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

We are protected from all dangers and physical illness. Jesus as the Head firms our spiritual salvation, so we are not stumbled by sin up to its peak. We can reach the full salvation or perfection.

1 John 3:7

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

If we are firm in the salvation and hold fast the true teaching Word, we will be righteous as Jesus is righteous.

- Jesus as the Head sanctifies us doubly through water baptism and the water of the true teaching Word. It is until we are perfect and blameless as Him.

Ephesians 5:25-27

5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

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.

Leviticus 14:8-9

14:8 He who is to be cleansed shall wash his clothes, shave off all his hair, and wash himself in water, that he may be clean. After that he shall come into the camp, and shall stay outside his tent seven days.

14:9 But on the seventh day he shall shave all the hair off his head and his beard and his eyebrows--all his hair he

shall shave off. He shall wash his clothes and wash his body in water, and he shall be clean.

The things that must be sanctified are as follows.

- The lust of money that makes one stingy and greedy.

2 Kings 5:26-27,20

5:26 Then he said to him, "Did not my heart go with you when the man turned back from his chariot to meet you? Is it time to receive money and to receive clothing, olive groves and vineyards, sheep and oxen, male and female servants?"

5:27 Therefore the leprosy of Naaman shall cling to you and your descendants forever." And he went out from his presence leprous, as white as snow.

5:20 But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, "Look, my master has spared Naaman this Syrian, while not receiving from his hands what he brought; but as the Lord lives, I will run after him and take something from him."

Being stingy is being unable to give (time, energy, money) for the work of God and the others who are in need. But, we must not be extravagant as well.

Being greedy is seizing the right of the others and God (the tithe and special offering).

- Uncleaness.

Leviticus 13:45-46

13:45 "Now the leper on whom the sore is, his clothes shall be torn and his head bare; and he shall cover his mustache, and cry, 'Unclean! Unclean!'"

13:46 He shall be unclean. All the days he has the sore he shall be unclean. He is unclean, and he shall dwell alone; his dwelling shall be outside the camp.

- The character of self-truth.

1 Peter 1:15-16

1:15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,

1:16 because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

If we are sanctified from the leprosy, we will be holy as Jesus is holy.

Ephesians 5:28-29

5:28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.

5:29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.

Luke 9:28-29

9:28 Now it came to pass, about eight days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray.

9:29 As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening.

The Bride Tidings sanctifies and encourages us to worship Jesus as the King with "Alleluia". It equals to seeing the countenance of Jesus that shines as the sun.

The results are as follows.

- The light of the grace of God.

Numbers 6:25

6:25 The Lord make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you;

Genesis 6:8

6:8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

The grace of God protects and cares our life in the midst of difficulties in this world, the days of antichrist, up to the doomsday. The grace of God also gives happiness in our life.

- The light of peace. Everything becomes easy and light.

Numbers 6:26

6:26 The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace."

- The light of the glory of God gives us victory over all our struggles until His second coming.

Genesis 32:24,28,30-31

32:24 Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day.

32:28 And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed."

32:30 So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: "For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved."

32:31 Just as he crossed over Peniel the sun rose on him, and he limped on his hip.

Jacob struggles to face Esau. It refers to fear, impossible problem, physical illness, *et cetera*. Let us struggle seriously until the light of the glory of God is revealed. Jacob also struggles to get a new name. Jacob that means liar is renewed to honesty. It refers to struggle to experience life renewal. Being honest means becoming the house of prayer. God will help and answer our prayer. He struggles with us. He cares and pays attention to us until He says "It is finished" on the cross. When Jesus comes a second time, we will be renewed to become the same as Him and sit together with Him on the throne of Heaven forever.

God blesses us.