To the Angel of Church of Ephesus Ephesus 5.6.18

We will teach the next generation what's valuable by the stories we tell, and the time we spend in those exploits!

The percentage of human viewpoint thinking we choose to hold onto, will be trained into our children!

But you say "there's nothing wrong with what I'm want doing" true; But is there something better?

God's word shows us a far better way!

5.5.18

To the Angel of Church of Ephesus

Works-patients-endurance-inheritance

*1. In the opening chapters of the book of Revelation, Jesus Christ gives His evaluation of the seven churches by way of these letters.

What is the purpose of the letters to the seven churches, for us:

A. **They will demonstrate the major trends that will take place in churches throughout the church age.**

To equip us to be **discerning** and aware of the tendencies, so that we don't fall prey!

To prepare us for the judgment seat of Christ.

To better equip us to rule and reign with Christ in eternity.

*2. Time to prepare:

A. **Revelation 2:1-7 (NKJV)**

1 "To the **angel** of the church of Ephesus write.

Because they are to be Legal witnesses who will record the activities of the saints, which will be held in store for the judgment seat of Christ

These things says **He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:**

Jesus Christ holds authority over the Angels; and with them as His legal witnesses, they walk among the churches.

He is aware of choices made to obey doctrine;

And also of the preferred choices to love this world.

Part A.

2 **I know your works**, your labor, your **patience**, and that you cannot **bear** those who are evil.

works

The application of doctrine

Though we don't want to be condemning, proud and arrogant; we are supposed to be able to discern and communicate the evil of false doctrine!

Matthew 7:13-20 (NKJV)

13 "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.
14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

15 **Beware** of **false prophets**, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.
16 You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles?

Fruit

17 Even so, every good tree bears good **fruit**, but a bad tree bears bad **fruit**.
18 A good tree cannot bear bad **fruit**, and a bad tree bear good **fruit**.
19 Every tree that does not bear good **fruit** is cut down and thrown into the **fire**.
20 Therefore by their **fruit** you will know them.

Fruit - Being tested; false doctrine

Not intended to be used against fellow believers by their deity to acting out false life; to determine if they're going to heaven or hell.

Fruit - Not intended to be used as "the lake of fire" or eternal damnation

Serving others:

1 Corinthians 3:8-17 (NKJV)

8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and **each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor**.

Strong's topics: 4. work; toil; trouble; labor

9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building.
10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.
11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.
12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,
13 each one's **work** will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's **work**, of what sort it is.
14 If anyone's **work** which he has built on it endures, he will receive a **reward**.
15 If anyone's **work** is burned, he will **suffer loss**; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.
16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?
17 If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

3588 hypsos: **argon**, nn (nsa), nn (nsd), n-nsa, ; (Wbs.nsa) (Wbs. 6538, 30-20c); TDNT 2:635—n. LN 42.71 act., deed;

actively (ch 10:20 10:b 10:e) **2. LN 42.42 work, assigned task,** job; nn 19:8b; LN 42.19 workmanship, the result of one's work (1Co 9:1)

Matthew 7:13-14 (NKJV)

13 "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.
14 Because narrow is the gate and **difficult** is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Though this way is difficult, it leads to life

James 1:4 (NKJV)

4 But let **patience** have its perfect **work**, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

The Christian life involves toil

1 Corinthians 15:58 (NKJV)

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the **work** of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

2 Corinthians 6:4-10 (NKJV)

4 But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses,
5 in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings,

2 Corinthians 11:27 (NKJV)

27 in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—

1 Thessalonians 1:3 (NKJV)

3 remembering without ceasing your **work** of faith, labor of love, and **patience** of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father,

Living the Christian life sometimes is very tough.

It is not just a matter of our own personal walk with the Lord, this is the production that is related to Christian service.

Christian service, is part of our responsibilities as believer priests.

Where some churches get out of line is when they make that a means of spirituality or a barometer of spirituality. It is neither, but Christian service is an outworking of our spiritual growth and spiritual life.

2 Corinthians 5:9-10 (NKJV)

9 Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.
10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

James 1:2-4 (NKJV)

2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,
3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces **patience**.
4 But let **patience** have its perfect **work**, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

James 2:18-26 (NKJV)

18 But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have **works**." Show me your faith without your **works**, and I will show you my faith by my **works**.
19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!
20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without **works** is dead?
21 Was not Abraham our father justified by **works** when he offered Isaac his son on the altar?
22 Do you see that faith was working together with his **works**, and by **works** faith was made perfect?
23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God.
24 You see then that a man is justified by **works**, and not by faith only.
25 Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by **works** when she received the messengers and sent them out another way?
26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without **works** is dead also.

Part B.

And you have **tested** those who say they are **apostles** and are not, and have found them liars;

The application of doctrine

works

were able to discern the evil

3 and you have persevered and have patience, and have laboured for My name's sake and have not become weary.
4 Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.
5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen, repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.
6 But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.
7 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. **To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.**

*3. **The purpose of doctrine:**

A. We don't want to just fill our heads with a bunch of theological terminology and memorized verses!
Doctrine is a means to an end, it's not an end in itself.

The end is your relationship with God:
therefore you need to grow to spiritual maturity so that we can have a full capacity to understand and appreciate our relationship with God, and to fulfill our role and responsibilities as church age believers. And ultimately as human beings created in the image and likeness of God as He intended, so that we can rule and reign with Him according to His purpose throughout all eternity.

God is teaching us to cast aside this world, for a far far greater ETERNAL inheritance.

But if we hang onto this world there will be an eternal loss.

How important is your children's eternal inheritance?

Suggested key memory verse

Acts 20:27 (NKJV)

32 "So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.