

Pastor Ron Case  
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## **“Body Builders”**

*“To prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up”  
(Ephesians 4:12 NIV)*

### **Blessings from God**

**Acts 6:1-7** – (1) “Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. (2) And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, ‘It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. (3) Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. (4) But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.’ (5) And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. (6) These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. (7) And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.”

**Acts 4:36-37** – (36) “Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, (37) sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles’ feet.”

**Colossians 4:12-13** – (12) “Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God. (13) For I bear him witness that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hierapolis.”

**Key Point: God uses faithful workers to build up His church**

### **Faithful Servants are Blessed by God**

**1 Timothy 3:8-13** – (8) “Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. (9) They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. (10) And let them also be tested first;

then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. (11) Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. (12) Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. (13) For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.”

Hebrews 6:9-10 – (9) “Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things—things that belong to salvation. (10) For God is not so unjust as to overlook your work and the love that you showed for his sake in serving the saints, as you still do.”

### **The ‘Ripple-Effect Reward Rule’**

1 Samuel 30:24-26 – (24) “...For as his share is who goes down into the battle, so shall his share be who stays by the baggage. They shall share alike.’ (25) And he made it a statute and a rule for Israel from that day forward to this day. (26) When David came to Ziklag, he sent part of the spoil to his friends, the elders of Judah, saying, ‘Here is a present for you from the spoil of the enemies of the LORD.’”

### **Questions:**

What impacted me the most in this message?

Am I serving God in a specific way?

Am I both a consumer of and contributor to God’s church?

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)