

## ELDERS WORTHY OF DOUBLE HONOR (part two)

In our last lesson [part one](#) we studied three qualifications of an **elder worthy of double honor**.

**In this lesson, we will study five aspects of the responsibility of the local church in recognizing the elder worthy of double honor.**

### 1. It is the responsibility of the local church leadership to acknowledge the elder worthy of double honor.

The local church is commanded to acknowledge the elder:

(1 Tim.5:17) “The elders who rules well (**proistemi/ perf.a.ptc. nplm**) are to be considered worthy (**axioo/ p.p. impv.3pl**) of double honor (diplous time), especially those who work hard (**kopiao/ p.a.ptc. nplm**) at preaching sand teaching.”

This is not a reference to a proxy or dead elder but an active elder of the church. Even the Chief Shepherd is alive and active over the church (1 Pet.5:1-4; 2:25).

Internet, books, tapes and such are ministries of this local church. They are not the church.

This church, DSBC, is a commuter rather than a community church. Our congregation travels as far as 30 miles away for assembly as a church.

(Heb.10:25) “**Not forsaking our own assembling together**, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; **and all the more as you see the day drawing near.**”

Paul expresses a pastor’s heart in **Gal.4:11** – “I fear for you, that perhaps I have labored (**kopiao/ perf.a.ind.1ps**) over you in vain.”

### 2. The elder who has a history of honorable service to the church in accurately handling the word of God for spiritual growth and the grace gospel of salvation is worthy of double honor.

(1 Thess.5:12-13) “But we request of you, brethren, that **you appreciate** those who diligently labor (**kopiao/ p.a.ptc. aplm**) among you, and have charge (**proistemi/ p.m.ptc. aplm**) over you in the lord and give you instruction, and that **you esteem** them very highly in love **because their work**, Live in peace with one another.”

(1 Tim.5:17) “The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard (**kopiao/ p.a.ptc.npm**) at preaching and teaching.”

### 3. Double honor would be respect and wages.

(Deut.25:4) “For **the Scripture says**, ‘You shall not muzzle the ox while he is threshing’

(Matt.20) “The laborer is worthy of his wages” (tou misthos/ contact hiring/ (Deut.24:14-15); (Lev.19:13)

#### 4 Questions found in (1 Cor.9:6-7):

- Or do only Barnabas and I not have a right to refrain from working?
- Who at any time serves as a soldier at his own expense?
- Who plants a vineyard and does not eat the fruit of it?
- Or who tends a flock and does not use the milk of the flock?"
  - (1 Cor.9:1-14) [16 questions]

(1 Cor.9:11) "If we sowed spiritual things in you, is it too much if we reap material things from you?"

#### 4. The worthy elder may never receive double or even single honor from the local church. But he must never become discouraged in his labors for the Lord.

(1 Cor.9:17-18) "For if I do this voluntarily, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have a stewardship entrusted to me. **What then is my reward?** That, when I preach the gospel, I may offer the gospel without charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel."

(1 Pet.5:4) "And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the **unfading crown of glory.**"

(2 Cor.5:10) "For we must all appear before **the Judgment Seat of Christ**, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."

As the head of the church, **Jesus Christ will award double honor to the faithful elder** at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

**Church:** "For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our lord Jesus at His coming? For you are our glory and joy." (1 Thess.2:19-20)

#### 5. The faithful church who reaches and maintains royal priesthood spiritual maturity will receive the crowns of righteousness and life (1 Pet.2:5, 9).

- **Crown of Life:** "Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the **crown of life** which the Lord has promised to those who love Him." (**James 1:12**; Rev.2:10)
- **Crown of Righteousness:** "I have fought the good fight of faith, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future is laid up for me the **crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day; **and not only to me, but also to all** who have loved His appearing." (2 Tim.4:7-8)