

# WHAT SERVICE SERVES UP TO US

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## INTRODUCTION:

A. We have an important role in the expansion and enrichment of God's Kingdom.

- Our role is to...

***This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.*** — Ephesians 4:13

***...real maturity is that measure of development which is meant by "the fullness of Christ."*** — Ephesians 4:13 (Phillips)

## I. GOD'S CHARACTER-BUILDING PLAN OF INTENTIONALITY

A. Life's pressures teach us intentionality.

***So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.*** — Ephesians 5:15

- Intentional people keep their promise.

***(God blesses the one)...who always does what they promises, no matter how much it may cost.*** — Psalms 15:4

- Intentional people get done what they say they will do (meet deadlines).

***One who is slack in their work is a true friend to the one who destroys.*** — Proverbs 18:9

- Intentional people are hard working.

***Don't work hard only when your master is watching... work hard all the time, as though working for Christ.*** — Ephesians 6:6-7

- Don't let the pressures of life push you off of God's path.

***Unless you are faithful in small matters, you won't be faithful in larger ones. If you cheat even a little, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities.*** — Luke 16:10

B. God uses trials to give us inner strength.

***We can rejoice when we run into problems and trials, for we know they are good for us — they help us learn to be patient. And patience develops strength of character.*** — Romans 5:3-4

C. God uses people to teach us how to really love.

***Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong. And do everything with love.*** — I Corinthians 16:13-14

- We all face people who are hard to love.
- Difficult people do develop us....our character.

***If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.*** — Romans 12:18

- They push us to the "live at peace" limit!

***Work happily together. Treat everyone with equal kindness. Don't become set in your opinions. Never pay back evil for evil. Do all you can to live at peace with everyone.*** — Romans 12:16-18

## CONCLUSION: