

**Valley Bible Church**  
**Sermon Notes for March 20, 2011**

**The Collection: Paul's Expectation for the Collection**  
**2 Corinthians 8:13-15**

Giving should be the natural outflow of God's grace working within us (2 Corinthians 8:1-7).

Giving should be the natural outflow of the grace of God working within us, for as His grace works within us the life of Christ will be manifested through us, and Christ is the giver (2 Corinthians 8:8-10).

Since giving should be the natural outflow of the grace of God working within us, as the life of Christ is manifested through us, the desire to give according to our ability in order to meet the basic needs of others should not come and go (2 Corinthians 8:11-15).

In light of our grace driven desire to give, it is very important in light of the sheer volume of need that is continually bombarding us, that we clearly understand the biblical parameters of our giving responsibilities.

We are responsible to supply the basic needs of those we encounter if we have the ability to do so (Luke 10:30-37, 1 John 3:17).

We are responsible to supply for the basic needs of those whom we have not encountered when asked to do so by our elders (2 Corinthians 8,9).

Just as Paul asked the churches to give to the collection for the poor saints in Jerusalem, the elders of this church are now asking us to give to a collection for those impacted by the earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

We believe that Hamadera Bible church would be greatly encouraged by such an offering.

We believe this offering will help Hamadera Bible Church to put the love of Christ on display in such a way that there will be opportunities for the gospel to be shared (John 13:34,35).

We also believe that this offering will help us to understand how elders can be used to direct giving to a strategic target, which was exactly what the Apostle was doing here in 2 Corinthians 8.

May God use our offering to encourage Hamadera Bible Church, to open doors for the proclamation of the gospel of Christ, and to help us understand how elders can be used to direct giving to a strategic target.

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