

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for March 27, 2011

The Collection: The Necessity of Sending the Delegation
2 Corinthians 8:16-24

Paul in 2 Corinthians 8:16-9:5 spelled out for the Corinthians why the delegation that he had sent to them preceding his visit was necessary.

Paul believed that this delegation he had sent was necessary, because it would protect him from the accusation that he or one of his associates was planning to use the collection to line their own pockets (2 Corinthians 8:16-24).

The first person that Paul identified as a member of the delegation that he was sending to Corinth was Titus (2 Corinthians 8:16-17).

Paul thanked God that he had placed the same earnestness to complete the collection that was in his heart in the heart of Titus (2 Corinthians 8:16).

Paul in 2 Corinthians 8:17 made it clear to the Corinthians that in light of God's work in Titus, Titus was eagerly and of his own accord carrying out the work that Paul himself would be carrying out if he were with him.

The next person that Paul identified as a member of the delegation he was sending to Corinth was an unnamed person that he only identified as "the brother" (2 Corinthians 8:18-19).

"The brother" that joined Titus as the second person of this delegation was very well known in the things of the gospel among all the churches (2 Corinthians 8:18).

"The brother" that was so well known, as well as respected, among all the churches had been appointed by the churches to accompany Paul with the offering to Jerusalem (2 Corinthians 8:19).

Both Paul and all the churches agreed that including "the brother" in the delegation would not only protect the money but also Paul and his associates from any potential accusation against them (2 Corinthians 8:20-21).

The third and last person that Paul identified as a member of the delegation was another unnamed person identified simply as "our brother" (2 Corinthians 8:22).

Paul in 2 Corinthians 8:23-24, after reviewing the individual members of the delegation that he had sent to them, then commended their noble unimpeachable character.

Desiring to protect our offering and the reputations of Christ's ministers in Japan, we will be entrusting our offering to two men that we have come to highly esteem within Hamadera Bible church. The two men are Shuji Kondo and Daisuke Okada.

May God use our offering that will be administered by Shuji Kondo and Daisuke Okada to advance His work in Japan to the praise of His glory.