

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for April 3, 2011

The Necessity of the Delegation
2 Corinthians 9:1-5

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).

Paul believed that this delegation that he had sent was necessary to ensure that the previously promised gift would be collected before he arrived (2 Corinthians 9:1-5).

When Paul told the Corinthians that it was superfluous for him to write to them about “this ministry to the saints,” he meant it was unnecessary for him to write to them about this collection.

Paul was so convinced of the Corinthians’ readiness to give toward the collection that he told them he had been boasting about their readiness to the Macedonians (2 Corinthians 9:2).

The substance of Paul’s boasting was that the Corinthians had been prepared to give to the collection for a year (2 Corinthians 9:2).

The preparation that Paul referred to in 2 Corinthians 9:2 was a preparation of purpose (2 Corinthians 8:10-11).

The impact of Paul’s boasting concerning the Corinthians’ zeal and their purposed intent to give such large sums of money to the collection stirred up the Macedonians (2 Corinthians 9:2 cf. 8:1-5).

But in spite of what Paul believed about their readiness and purposed intent both past and present, he still believed it was necessary to send the delegation to ensure that his boast not be made empty (2 Corinthians 9:3).

The word “empty” (KENOO) belongs to the same stem as the noun in 2 Corinthians 6:1 which refers to the danger of the Corinthians accepting the grace of God “in vain” (KENOS).

Paul told the Corinthians that both he and they would feel shame if he arrived with the Macedonians and found them unprepared (2 Corinthians 9:4).

The sin of covetousness is the greatest hindrance to giving (2 Corinthians 9:5).

May we by the grace of God be protected from covetousness, so that we might experience the blessings of giving to the praise of His glory.