



Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman

who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of

TRUTH

2 Timothy 2:15



2 Timothy 2:15

Study earnestly to present yourself approved to GOD, a workman that does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.



~ 12th October 2025 ~
~ 17th Sunday after Trinity ~

~ Collect (s) ~

**Almighty God,
you have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you:
pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself,
and so bring us at last to your heavenly city
where we shall see you face to face;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen**

or

**Gracious God,
you call us to fullness of life:
deliver us from unbelief
and banish our anxieties
with the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

~ Readings ~

2 Kings 5. 1 - 3, 7 - 15c	OT p	373
2 Timothy 2. 8 - 15	NT p	1196
Luke 17. 11 - 19	NT p	1051

(NIV used in sermon preparation)

~ Post Communion Prayer ~

**Lord, we pray that your grace
may always precede and follow us,
and make us continually to be given to all good works;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.. Amen**

As a church we are learning to step out in faith. We have been challenged on many occasions and continue to be so. Each time we think we have time to rest in the Lord a new challenge presents itself. These challenges are not always from God and we have to pray for the discernment to recognise them and seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit as to how we should deal with them. Other challenges are from God and we need to discern that and not put them aside!

Naaman was an important man, a commander in an army. Unfortunately he had leprosy and in many cultures considered unclean. His wife's servant girl was an Israelite and knew of the prophet's of God and that some had the gift healing power from their Lord. She told Naaman's wife of Elisha (resident in Samaria) and communication was opened but Naaman initially rejected the communication. He was persuaded to visit Elisha's home ~ Elisha sent a messenger to him who instructed him to wash in the river seven times but the army commander thought this was not enough to be cured ~ that it was beneath him to do something apparently so trivial told him by a messenger!

Naaman was challenged by his servants who asked if something grand had been asked of him would he have done it? Their argument persuaded Naaman to do as instructed and he was cured.

Why would God choose to cure Naaman? Because it brought God glory by bringing Naaman to faith, recognising that there was/is no true God.

How often do we consider things asked of us to be insignificant or beneath us? Consider if you might have ignored God speaking to you simply because His words came from someone that you considered did not have the authority? Pray that you can discern when to step out in faith and when to wait.

Note ~ God patiently waits and gives further opportunity for us to realise He is at work and when we respond He is glorified.

Paul, writing to Timothy, helps him to recognise the difference between disowning God ~ when God has no choice but to let us walk away as we have the freedom to choose and being faithless

when God patiently remains faithful and waits for our faith to be restored. Our encouragement is to remember God's infinite love shown through Jesus Christ and not try to embellish the Truth. We are to stand by the Truth revealed to us whatever trials and tribulations that incur.

Our gospel speaks again of leprosy, which was considered unclean by Israelites with sufferers having to live in colonies or isolation from their homes and families. Jesus meets a colony of ten lepers request for healing by giving them a simple, if culturally challenging, task of presenting themselves to the priests (to verify healing). As they turn to go they are all healed ~ but just one of them realises this is through their faith and turns back to praise God in Jesus for the blessing. The man who turned back was a Samaritan, the one of the ten who was a foreigner and not necessarily bound by the Israelite rituals! Jesus realises the man has affirmed his faith and tells him to go in peace.

Did the nine Israelites not realise their healing was faith in action or did they just assume it was their right to ask and receive?

How often do we take our faith for granted?

This week stop and make a point of praising God ~ giving thanks for healing in your life and the strength of your faith ~ whatever the healing has been and however difficult you might find it to remain faithful. Remember God understands faithlessness but cannot do anything about denial except to let us go ~ welcome to return, penitent, if we regret our rejection and desire to walk in faith again.

