

9 October 2016 – 21 Pentecost (Proper 23)

Readings: 2 Kings 5:1–3, 7–15c; 2 Timothy 2:8–15; Luke 17:11–19.

Theme: “*My gospel*” - **2 Timothy 2:8**, “Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is **my gospel**.”

INTRO:



I. IN A NUTSHELL: JESUS CHRIST.

2 Timothy 2:8, “Remember **Jesus Christ**.” Paul begins with the word, “Remember.” We often “forget” the most important thing about our faith is the object of our faith: Jesus Christ. Barclay: “the greatest appeal of all.” “the heart of the Pauline gospel.”

A. Jesus. John 19:5, “*Pilate* said to them, ‘Behold, the Man!’”

B. Christ – the anointed one.

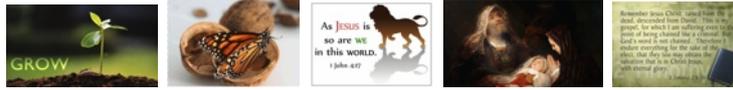
Peter. Acts 10:37-38, “You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached how **God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power**, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.”

1 Corinthians 2:2, “I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except **Jesus Christ** and him crucified.”

Romans 10:17, “faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through **the word about Christ**.”

1 John 2:27, “As for you, the **anointing** you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his **anointing** teaches you about all things and as that **anointing** is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him.”

Cf. **2 Kings 5:11**, “Naaman went away angry and said, ‘**I thought** that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy.’” Pride gets in the way. This isn’t rocket science. **John 3:16**, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that **whoever believes in him** shall not perish but have eternal life.”



II. AS A GROWING SEED: RAISED FROM THE DEAD.

John 12:24, “Truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but **if it dies, it bears much fruit.**”

2 Timothy 2:8, “Remember Jesus Christ, **raised from the dead.**” The tense of the Greek verb is a continued state which lasts for ever.

Romans 6:3-4, “Don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, **just as** Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, **we too may live a new life.**”

2 Kings 5:8, 14-15, Elisha sent him (the king of Israel) this message: “Why have you torn your robes? Have the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel.” So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, “**and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.**” Then Naaman and all his attendants went back to the man of God and said, “**Now I know** that there is no God in all the world except in Israel.” Do you know anyone raised from the dead? “Am I God?” (cf. 2 Kings 5:7). “No.” “Am I like God?” “Yes.”

1 John 4:17, “In this world **we are like Jesus.**”

Ephesians 1:17-20, “**I keep asking... that you may know... his incomparably great power for us who believe.** That power is **the same as** the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms.”

CONCLUSION: 2 Kings 5:15, “Please accept a gift from your servant.” What gift do we offer? Our worship. Our lives. **Rom. 12:1.**

Luke 2:29-32, “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, **and the glory of your people Israel.**”