

TODAY'S FACILITATORS

PRAYER: Wunmi

OFFERING: Austin

WORD: Pastor

WELCOME

We warmly welcome you, if you are worshipping with us for the first time. We believe you've become a member of our church family by God's grace.

Please ensure you speak to the Pastor or one of today's facilitators before you leave.

May God bless you richly (Amen).

VERSE(S) OF THE DAY

Again he said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

John 20:21-22 (NLT)

GROWTH & ADVANCEMENT

To build a church that is **growing, healthy and full of love**, do you have comments, ideas or suggestions? If so, please talk to the Pastor or a minister.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know you could join most of our services online when you are unable to attend? Talk to the technical team or the Pastor to find out how.

EVEN BEFORE HE MADE THE WORLD,
GOD loved us &
chose us in **CHRIST**
TO BE HOLY &
BLAMELESS IN HIS EYES.
EPHESIANS 1:4

Source: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/108649409740717193/>



Sunday 23 February 2020

WELCOME

Redeemed Christian Church of God

Bethel

WEEKLY SERVICES & MEETINGS

SUNDAY

Thanksgiving / Worship
service
From 10am

FRIDAY

Prayer meeting / Bible study
From 7pm

RCCG Bethel Parish

Unit 13, Skylines Village

Limeharbour, London E14 9TS

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WEB: www.rccgbethel.church

Our 'must-visit' website



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WELCOME TO RCCG BETHEL PARISH

Our website is a treasure trove of information, and not only about our focus and mission. You could subscribe to our podcast or listen to past sermons too (<http://rccgbethel.church/sermons/>). This is particularly useful for when you are unable to attend services or for refreshing your recollection as an essential part of your private Bible study.

There's more! Details of events and outreach will almost certainly be available from relevant pages on our website and updated regularly, along with downloadable copies of our Sunday bulletins (<http://rccgbethel.church/category/bulletins/>).

So, why don't you set our homepage as one of your **startup page(s)** in your browser now? The following instructions for most of the common browsers may help.

Google Chrome

1. Open the browser and the **Settings** menu (or the **three vertical dots** to the right of the menu bar).
2. Scroll down and click on **Advanced Settings**.
3. Select **Open a specific page or set of pages** under **On Startup**.
4. Select **Set pages** and enter or add <http://rccgbethel.church/>.

Mozilla Firefox

1. Open Firefox. Press **Alt-T** on the keyboard and select **Options** from the drop-down menu or go to **Tools >> Options** from the main menu.
2. In the **Home** section, select **Homepage and new windows** and **Custom URLs...** from the field's drop down.
3. Enter or paste the URL: <http://rccgbethel.church/> or click **Use Current Page** if you are already on our website.

Microsoft Edge

1. Click the **three horizontal dots** to the right of the top menu bar.
2. Select **Settings** and select **A Specific Page or Pages** from the **Open Microsoft Edge With** section drop down options.
3. Enter <http://rccgbethel.church/>. (Click the Plus sign to add more pages if required).
4. Click the **three horizontal dots** to the right of the top menu bar again to close **Settings** menu.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

The book of Ephesians – Part II

Text: Ephesians 1:1-5

Brief recap

Last week, we discussed how God has blessed us with every spiritual blessings in heavenly places. We concluded that, while this could manifest physically, it's actually God's presence with us that separates us from non-believers and not the tangible things we often think about or believe God's blessings to be.

Further blessings

Other blessings that are not physical include the strength or renewal of knowledge and spirit only God can provide. For example, Isa 40:28-31 is not referring to replenishing after "physical" tiredness, but a renewal beyond our understanding. Contrast with Mark 6:31, which is talking about physical weariness.

We should indeed plan and allow time to 'reboot' our physical strength. The body needs renewal or refreshing now and again, and it is part of growing to know when that is necessary or required. It also helps us remain in the presence of God. If you are busy, you cannot hear from God (1 Kn 19:11-13). It is also unwise to be an island or withdraw into ourselves or we may burnout like Elijah. He was powerful, but he could probably have done more (1 Kn 18:22; 19:10; 13b-18).

Note that Elisha seemed to have learnt from this, building a team around himself (2 Kings 6:1). We need rest, but also need the presence of God, in the person of the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:38; John 20:21-23). That is crucial to our walk with God and our effectiveness in ministry. He's our ultimate help.

Another blessing is that God chose us (Eph 1:4). If you're in Christ, it's because God loves and chose you *"before the foundation of the world"*, and therefore have a purpose for your existence. This is the essence and the doctrine of election.

Rejection is the most common emotion we can experience and due to social media, we're more vulnerable than ever, the greatest damage often self-inflicted. There's something affirming in knowing we're not accidents. Our lives have purpose. No man's rejection should affect us – whether man, woman or organisation. The one who created the universe has chosen us.

Bottom line

We need to be full of the same assurance David had all his life (Psa 89:2-4). For that reason, he ran with purpose. We need to develop the same assurance in Christ Jesus and be convinced that God created the world with us in his mind.

* Download a copy of last week's bulletin from here: <http://rccgbethel.church/category/bulletins/>

RCCG Bethel Parish
Pillar of truth, defining the future today