

TODAY'S FACILITATORS

PRAYER: Wunmi

OFFERING: Remy

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

So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days.

Ephesians 5:15-16 (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.

But, one thing I do:

Forgetting what is **behind** and straining toward what is **ahead**, I press on toward the goal to win the **prize** for which **God** has called me heavenward in **Christ Jesus.**

Philippians 3:13-14



Sunday 12 July 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

PHONE: 07889906677 || EMAIL:

admin@rccgbethel.church

WEB: www.rccgbethel.church

Our 'must-visit' website



Home Our Focus About us Contact Us Sermons Privacy Policy



Our main service occurs every Sunday effective from 15 March 2020 until further notice; from 10:00 to 12:00 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London. We may hold other meetings during the week. Links to these will be sent out to members or posted on our website.

When it is time for service(s), please join our Webex platform as follows:

If joining online, copy and paste the meeting link below into your browser:

<https://rccgbethel.my.webex.com/webappng/sites/rccgbethel.my/meeting/download/7c2a148a6a6f4c678d2cad460a7d36f3?siteurl=rccgbethel.my&MTID=ma34d26296c523f45b7c8ce7e2bc5324c>

The link should take you directly to the meeting, but if necessary, use the following details.

Meeting number (access code): 145 480 919

Meeting password: BethelDR

Joining by phone

Tap to call in from a mobile device

+44-20-3478-5289 United Kingdom Toll

Global call-in numbers

Join from a video system or application

Dial 145480919@rccgbethel.my.webex.com

You can also dial 62.109.219.4 and enter your meeting number.

Join using Microsoft Lync or Microsoft Skype for Business

Dial 145480919.rccgbethel.my@lync.webex.com

There's no need to register or sign in. Once on the meeting page, you should see a green button with the prompt **Join meeting**. If the meeting is running, you will be asked to wait. If not, you may see something like **Meeting has not started** or a similar message.

If you need help, please contact the Pastor on **07889906677**.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Intentional living in Christ

Text: Luke 14:25-34; 9:57-62

Other relevant passages: Romans 12:1-21; Ephesians 5:1-33

I feel like our journey through the book of Ephesians have been about how or why we've got to live intentionally in Christ. In summary, here are a few things we learnt.

Chapter 1: We have spiritual blessings in Christ.

Chapter 2: We (the church, Jews and Gentiles) are united in Christ; fellow citizens and not aliens.

Chapter 3: Paul prayed that we have insight and understand the depth of God's love.

Chapter 4: We (the church) must live in unity, tell each other the truth and be driven by that truth.

Chapter 5: We must live purposefully, follow God's example and not live as fools.

Intentional living involves a conscious choice. It means we've made a decision that other alternatives are not options. Jesus made this clear in Luke 14:25-34, teaching his disciples about making sure the cost of following him is considered first. This is because we must be disciplined and committed before we can be a disciple; no point if we're not (Luke 9:62).

Discipline comes from the Latin word for pupil: **discipulus**. It is also the source of the word **disciple**, described as **"a follower of Jesus Christ in his lifetime"**. An example of what can happen when the cost of being a "follower of Christ" is not considered is in John 6:22-69. The bible said many disciples left because Jesus told them: **"unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you cannot have eternal life"** (John 6:53; 66). They couldn't understand what he was saying and weren't prepared to stick around to find out. Peter on the other hand have clearly decided at some point there was no better place to be. He responded to Jesus giving the rest of them a chance to leave too, with the now classic **"Lord, to whom would we go?"** (John 6:68).

In addition to what we learnt last week, the following may help in making our decision:

1. Intentional living must start with faith in God. Do we believe that God exists (Heb 11:6) and do we believe like Peter that Christ is **"the Holy One of God"**?
2. Our sense of right and wrong must have its root in the constant renewing of our minds (Rom 12:1-2). We cannot be neither in nor out or that could mean we haven't decided yet (Luke 9:62).
3. We must be humble and crucify self; based on an understanding that our lives have been purchased by the blood of Christ (1 Cor 6:19-20; Gal 2:20; Rom 6:6-7; Eph 4:22-23).
4. We must be an example for others and our brother's keeper (1 Cor 10:23-33). 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 tells us we must be ambassadors of Christ.
5. We must be prayerful. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 tells us it should be like breathing to us. Jesus prayed all the time, even though Philippians 2:6 said he is God; so much so his disciples finally asked him to teach them to pray. We must be deliberate about it because it is part of being disciplined and being a disciple, a form of service, an act of obedience and a way of communicating with God and receiving answer from him or solutions to our problems (Jeremiah 33:3; 2 Chro 7:14). It also gives us comfort, power and confidence and can be therapeutic.

We may be thinking, like those disciples, that it is too great a sacrifice. But the beauty of following Christ is that he's prepared to take our yoke upon himself (Matt 11:28-30). So when he says **"hate everyone else ... even your own life"** (Luke 14:26), he's really telling us to live by faith in him, **completely** (Gal 2:20).

Bottom line:

Living intentionally for Christ implies we've considered associative costs. If we haven't yet, now is the time to. Also, becoming followers of Christ means we hand over our burdens. Jesus said his burden is light (Matt 11:30). Believe him and let him take yours off you.

RCCG Bethel Parish
Pillar of truth ... defining the future today