

TODAY'S FACILITATORS

PRAYER: Bimmy

OFFERING: Bola

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 all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord – who is the Spirit – makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.

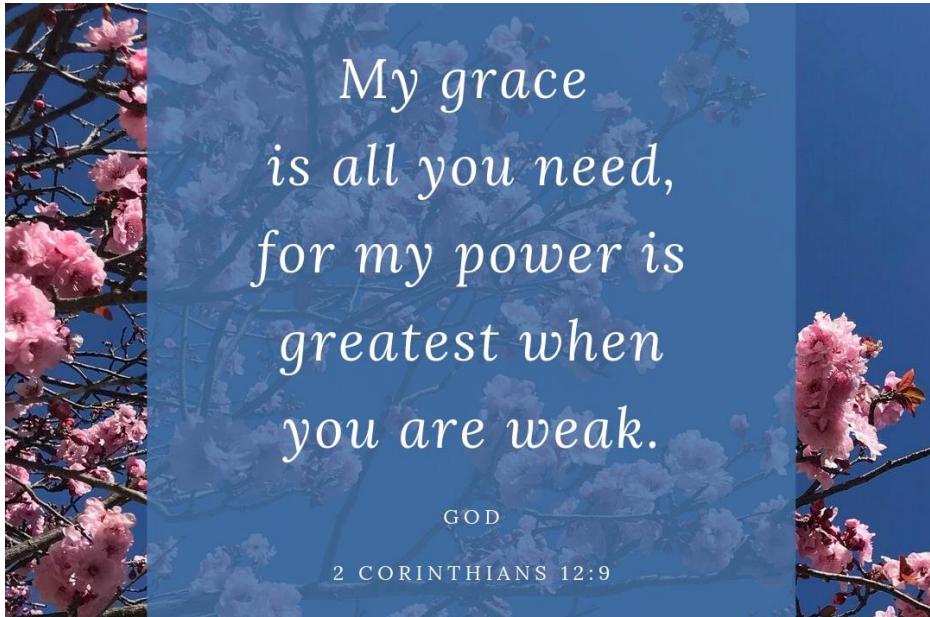
2 Corinthians 3:18 (NLT)

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.



Source(s): <https://www.thirstydeer.net/blog/2-corinthians-129>



Sunday 25 October 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 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

Will Versus Grace (Part II)

Text: Matthew 19:16-22

Last week, we compared grace to will-power and considered how limited will-power could be while grace has no limits because it is the gift of God. We also talked about Saul who had strong will-power but needed grace to become Paul and Simon who was like a reed, but also needed grace to become Peter, the rock on which God built his church. Moses also failed to enter the promise land because he disobeyed God's instruction.

Jesus told Peter he would no longer be Simon, but if we examine Peter's life, we can see he was never just Peter (1 Pet 1:1; 2 Peter 1:1). In contrast, Paul left the "Saul" personality behind after his conversion and began to see himself as Paul (Acts 13:9). This is probably where the habit of assigning "new" baptismal names come from. When the old nature is dead and buried, the new life should have a new name to reflect the newness.

How we see ourselves matter (Prov 23:7). Peter always saw himself as Simon Peter. For example, instead of extending grace to his fellow believers, he judges and condemns them (Gal 2:11-14). Likewise, many of us start under grace, but always revert to living under the law. The conflict and confusion makes us unhealthy and unable to grow. We try to live as "Peter", but we still see ourselves as "Simon".

How do you see yourself as a Christian? Are you a product of grace or are you still trying to obey God by will-power? The word translated grace in the Old Testament is the Hebrew word "chen" (e.g. Gen 6:8). It means mercy, kindness or graciousness. God showed mercy and favour to Noah although he did nothing to deserve it.

In the New Testament, grace is "charis", coined from "charisma" and that goes beyond favour. It means "gratifying in manner" or "that which causes delight". Charis has some mystical connotations. For example, we talk of someone having charis or charisma (charm), with persuasive abilities that are often lauded or revered.

Apostle Paul used the word "grace" to indicate unearned or unmerited favour i.e. something completely undeserved that could never have been achieved by ourselves. It's the ability that transforms us from a "Simon" to a 'Peter' and from a 'Saul' to 'Paul'. It comes from faith (Eph 2:8) and the transformation is both instant and continuous (2 Cor 3:18; Phil 3:12-19).

As we've established before, Christianity is meant to be enjoyed not endured. It's not about the things around us, but the grace of God. It is what sets us apart, breaking us from the legacy of living under the law. We need to unlearn the lessons of living by will-power and begin to live by grace. It could make the difference between success and failure.

Bottom line:

God takes us on a journey, but he gives us grace to endure that journey and excel. We must not take that grace for granted (Heb 10:29).

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