

TODAY'S FACILITATORS

PRAYER: Yetunde

OFFERING: Esther

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

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:2 (ESV)

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.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Prove by the way you live ... contd.

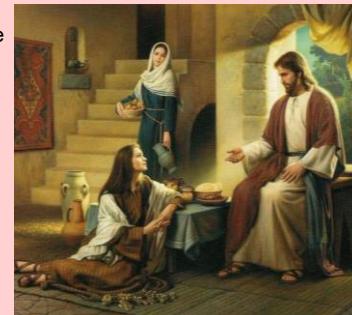
Text: Matthew 3:1-10 (NLT)

The second Mary can be found in Luke 1:26-45. We read about a young virgin's life turned upside down with the potential of being ostracised by the society. The striking thing was that God gave Mary a choice and she accepted the uncertain future (Luke 1:38). From then, she lived for Christ and her life never remained the same again.

Living for Christ is not always the easiest thing to do, but it's the only choice worth making. We may become tired, stressed or discouraged, but there are lessons and joys in serving and the bible promised greater rewards from God. So, let's persist in prayers and in serving God.

Bottom line:

Living for Christ means making life choices where we put him first, and everything is from the viewpoint of Christ. Ask yourself each time you do anything: Is it going to make you happy or glorify God? We must learn to sit at Jesus' feet like Mary and be with him.



Sunday 22 November 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



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

Prove by the way you live

Text: Matthew 3:1-10 (NLT)

We will begin a series on the portraits of Jesus in the gospel today. The book of Matthew begins with the genealogy of Jesus, but we'll skip that for now and start with the cameo in this text about the life of John the Baptist. The scripture said out of a barren desert, a wilderness came an important voice: John's. It was the last place you would expect something like that. It shows that we can sometimes find value in places where we don't expect to find them. And we can find God in ways or places we can't imagine too.

But our focus is on the Pharisees and Sadducees. The bible said you'll often find them in synagogues, street corners and places where they could be seen (Matt 6:5). But in this instance, they left those places behind and sought the barren wasteland or wilderness John have made his home in; and even John was surprised, asking them "**Who warned you to flee the coming wrath? Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God.**"

That's the key message for us today. Jesus said by their fruit you shall know them (Matt 7:16). A gospel that doesn't change the way we live is not really the good news. We must prove by the way we live that we love and believe in Christ.

Living for Christ was the most crucial part of Paul's life. And for Paul, an important part of that means helping others to grow in the knowledge of Christ, to invest in others and add value to their lives (Gal 2:17-20; Phil 1:20-25). As we considered this morning, living for Christ involves commitment. Everything in our lives should be about Christ.

We may recall the story of how David expressed desire for water from his hometown once when he was thirsty. "**Oh, if only I could have some water from that well by the gate in Bethlehem...**" he cried. Three of his followers heard and they fought their way through the Philistine army to get the water for him from a well near the city gate in Bethlehem. David appreciated their sacrifice, and felt he couldn't drink it. He poured it on the ground as an offering to the Lord instead. We can commend and learn from these brave men's devotion to their master (2 Sam 23:15-17).

When we live for our own personal happiness and push away everything that doesn't make us happy, we must ask ourselves if that's compatible with living for Christ. We may have the idea that pleasing God means denying ourselves (Luke 9:23). But why do the two have to be mutually exclusive? We can make the decision to align our lives with Christ, tying our personal happiness to him and things that pleases him.

In illustration, let's take a look at two Marys in the bible. The first is in Luke 10:38-42. Mary's sister, Martha was so busy preparing food to care for Jesus. Stressed, she asked Jesus to compel Mary to help her. But Jesus commended Mary for choosing to be with him and sit at his feet.

Continued >>

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