

\*\*\* GIVE THANKS \*\*\*

# Thanksgiving Service

## 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).

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

*Portraits of Jesus: To lead and to follow ... contd.*

**Text: Matthew 4:1**

Some wise men once followed a star to find Jesus (Matt 2:1-11). Today, we have more than that to guide us. We have the Holy Spirit (Matt 4:1). Paul said to "that I may know **Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being conformed to His death**" (Phil 3:9-11).

In John 6:56-71, we learnt some stopped following because they found what he told them hard. The disciples however gave a collective affirmative response to Jesus's prompt asking if they wanted to leave too. In response, Jesus forced them to consider that one of them may not be so inclined and may even betray him (John 6:56-71).

**Bottom line:**

Following Christ require us to go beyond the physical and get to know him by being with him. Why are you following him? Is it because of the physical things you can get from him or the words of eternal life?

Source(s): <https://medium.com/@aaronwwebber/why-great-leaders-follow-a0239a80b5e8>

## VERSE(S) OF THE DAY

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

*Proverbs 3:5-6 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.



Sunday 6 December 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**

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# 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

### Portraits of Jesus: To lead and to follow

#### **Text: Matthew 4:1**

We've been going through sessions on portraits of Jesus in the gospel. Portraits are usually frames frozen in time. We're attempting to look beyond those frames and the circumstances behind them. This text focused our minds to ask the question: Who is leading us?

In this text, Jesus was being led to be tempted. We can recall he taught us to pray and say: **Lead us not into temptation. So, why would the Holy Spirit lead Jesus into a wilderness at his most vulnerable, to be tempted?** That's what someone once termed the apparent contradictions of the texts in the bible. Here we're learning Jesus was once led or may be led into temptation.

The question for us is who is leading us. Jesus being the son of God was still humble enough to follow the leading and the leadership of the Holy Spirit. The scriptures say those who are led by the Spirit are the sons of God (Rom 8:14-15). This is one of the things that sets us apart.

Jesus yielded control of his life to the Holy Spirit and this leads us into considering what discipleship, which is about following, is all about. What does it mean to follow and what are the incentives for following? To be made "**fishers of men**", we were told in Matthew 4:18-20 that the disciples left all. This is not an easy thing to do. Can we ever trust God enough to do the same?

Apart from the disciples, crowds and multitudes followed him too (Matt 4:23-25; 8:1). For some it was about the spectacle of the miracles and for others it was the way he spoke. For others, it was about the food (John 6:26-27). But there's a cost to following. For example, those who follow football club may have to pay a lot of money for the privilege. It's the same way with following Jesus. There's a cost and there's also an immediacy or timing about it (Matt 8:18-22; Luke 9:61-62).

Casual followers followed Jesus for what they can get from him, but others follow so they can be with him (John 1:35-41). Which are you? Why are you following? What is it that has captivated you and kept you following?

For illustration, let's compare two instances of followership. The first is in John 5:1-3; 5-15. These verses have often been used to motivate and inspire, especially if we consider the man was ill for thirty-eight years. But after he was healed, he went back to his business and seemed unmotivated to get to know Jesus more.

Compare with the story in John 9:1-34 about the man that was born blind. Afterwards, the man returned to the synagogue and was even thrown out for deigning to "teach" the Pharisees. When Jesus found him later, the man accepted and worshipped Jesus (John 9:25-41).

**RCCG Bethel Parish**

*The pillar of truth, defining the future today*