

*** GIVE THANKS ***



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

But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.

1 Peter 5:10 (NKJV)

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 4 April 2021

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

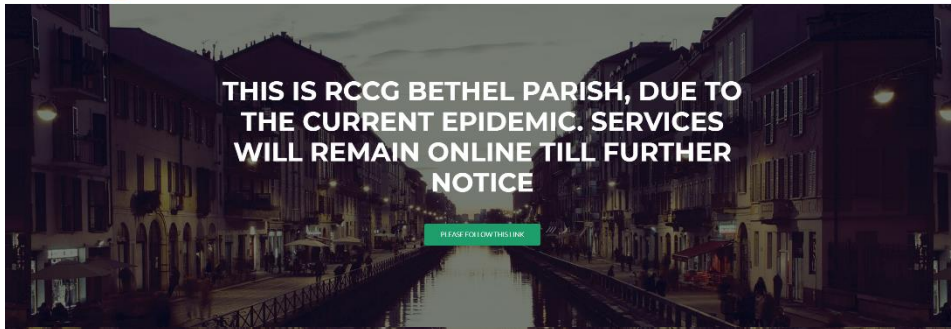
Worthy suffering

For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for his sake (Phil 1:29).

Our 'must-visit' website



Home Our Focus About us Contact Us Sermons Privacy Policy



THIS IS RCCG BETHEL PARISH, DUE TO THE CURRENT EPIDEMIC. SERVICES WILL REMAIN ONLINE TILL FURTHER NOTICE

PLEASE FOLLOW THIS LINK

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 privilege of suffering for Christ

Text: Philippians 1:29

Today is Palm Sunday and the beginning of the Passion Week in the Christian calendar. We probably enjoy the entertainments and dramatic renditions of Matthew 21:1-10 and other events surrounding the Passion Week. It may be jarring to remember they frame one of the most challenging times of Jesus's ministry, when he suffered and died for our sins.

Last week we learnt that we gain some privileges in receiving Christ and they include the privilege of trusting in God. Along with that we also gained the privilege of suffering. No one like to suffer, which may explain why the gospel is often presented to us as an absolution from suffering. We were told believing in Christ means all our problems would go away and we often hold on to that (Psa 91:7-13).

Progressive technological developments and easy access to creative comforts also reinforce that premise. But as we grow in our Christian faith, we may begin to realise this is not exactly true (Phil 3:7-8). In fact, some Christians may find their suffering increased exponentially after giving their life to Christ.

We must understand the mishaps or misadventures we experience in our daily struggles is not what we mean by suffering for Christ. Whether we are Christians or not, from time to time we may fall sick or suffer financial hardship and so on. This may be due to circumstances beyond our control or by our own mistakes. They may also be painful. God can help us through them, but that's not suffering for Christ.

Suffering for Christ's sake are those that occur because we're Christians and it is a choice (James 1:2-4; 1 Pet 4:1-2; 12-16 - NLT). We may sometimes feel it is unjust to suffer pain or not be rewarded when we've done the right thing. Or we wonder what we've done to deserve adverse experiences. Our first instinct is to get ourselves out of suffering as quickly as possible, but James 1:2 says we should consider it an opportunity for increasing our faith and capacity for endurance.

We see in the apostles' practices and the early church that it was their expectation to suffer for Christ's sake and in many parts of the world today, people can suffer terrible fates because they're Christians. Our attitude regardless of any consequence for our actions should be that we would always do what is right.

Living in Western or first world countries, we may be ridiculed or persecuted for our faith, but chances are we may never experience the danger that comes with declaring for Christ in some parts of the world. Don't be ashamed or despair when you suffer for your faith. Continue to stand for what is right and prioritise our walk with Christ come what may – good or bad – knowing that your present suffering can never be compared to the glory ahead (Rom 8:18). Like Paul, we must count everything else worthless (Phil 3:7-8).

Bottom line

We need to change our perception about suffering. We are going to experience a lot of things, including suffering so that we may gain Christ. We must be ready, knowing he's always with us and will never abandon us (Heb 13:5).

RCCG Bethel Parish

The pillar of truth, defining the future today