

TODAY'S FACILITATORS

PRAYER: Michael

OFFERING: Wunmi

WORD: Yomi

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 to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn — not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.

john 1:12-13 (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.

It is only
through the
grace and power
of God that
free will truly
becomes "free,"
as He gives us
the capacity to
choose salvation.

Image source(s): <https://www.gotquestions.org/free-will.html>



Sunday 18 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

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WEB: www.rccgbethel.church

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

Understanding "free will"

Text: Romans 8:29-30

These days, several things are wrapped up in personal "rights" and "spaces", and there's no doubt this has complicated public health responses among other things. Even now, some subscribe to the notion that COVID-19 pandemic shouldn't be taken seriously or believe it is a ruse for exerting control. That's in spite of devastating costs to lives, economy and so on. Government policies e.g. to wear masks or stay home run into our natural tendency to rebel or resist, at our peril.

Religions choices often run into the same conundrums, which may explain why there are over 4,000 different denominations, each believing their way is the way. If the Christian way is truly the way, why is that not clear to everyone? And how is it possible we can't reach a consensus on the dangers and responses for something as destructive as a pandemic?

For possible answers, we may turn to our understanding of guiding Christian doctrines like divine selection / predestination and free. Christian faith says we enjoy both, but logic suggests that cannot be true. Let's consider Peter and Judas, divinely selected to play critical roles in fulfilling scriptures about the death and resurrection of Jesus (Mark 14: 27-31 / Luke 22:31 / John 13:36-38; John 13:21-30).

Did either of the two men have a choice or were their lives fated to go the way it did? As Christians, we're taught to believe God has chosen us because the bible says so (John 15:16). In Romans 8:29-30 we're told God chose those he knew in advance would be his. This text pre-supposes that although we may have free will and made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27), we couldn't possibly save or choose ourselves (Rom 5:6-11; 1 Cor 2:14; Rom 1:28).

Simply put, our free will, having been corrupted by sin was incapable of enabling us to choose Christ of our own natural will (Rom 3:23-24; Eph 2:1-3; Col 1:21). We needed help, hence in God's plan, Christ had to come and die to save us (Rom 5:6-16; 3:24). With his sacrifice, we were reconciled to God (Col 1:21-23). But more importantly, because we now have the mind of Christ we can freely choose God (1 Cor 2:16; Galatians 2:20). This should give us confidence and inspire our gratitude.

Bottom line:

The process to give us a new life (2 Cor 5:17) and the mind of Christ is not an organic transplantation and neither does it override our free will. It can however become the determinant and the basis for our choices. But to choose right each and every time, we must cultivate a relationship with the word of God (Rom 12:2), the Holy Spirit (John 17:17) who will tell us the truth and be prayerful (Luke 22:31-32; 1 Peter 5:8).

RCCG Bethel Parish

Pillar of truth ... defining the future today