

GOOD MORNING

HAPPY
SUNDAY

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

Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

Matthew 18:21-22 (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.



Forgive to Move On

Image source(s): <https://rootsandwingsmi.org/wednesdays-encouraging-word-forgiveness/> // <https://www.indiatoday.in/information/story/world-forgiveness-day-2021-history-significance-celebrations-images-and-quotes-1824874-2021-07-07>



Sunday 9 January 2022

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

Forgiveness

Text: Matthew 18:21-26; 28-35

This is a great time of the year to talk about forgiveness as one of the important foundations for the beginning of another year. Jesus said if anyone brings an offering brought to the altar and remember a brother or sister who has sinned against them, it is better s/he leave the offering and reconcile with them first (Matt 5:23-24). This is because whatever we offer to God from an unforgiving heart is unacceptable.

The parable in our text today illustrates the consequences, when we fail to forgive, can be great (Matthew 18:33-34). Sometimes, we judge certain sins such as murder or other atrocities too evil to deserve forgiveness and damn the perpetrators to hell or worse without much thought. The criminal justice system for example determines the severity of a crime by intentions and the gravity or cost to victim(s).

We may also find it difficult to forgive is because of a sense of entitlement. Consider Simon's reaction when he witnessed a woman kissing Jesus's feet and anointing him with her hair and fragrant oil (Luke 7:40-50). Jesus explained the woman's actions to him by implying that our behaviour sometimes show we don't realise the extent of our indebtedness to God.

In other words, if we understand the depth of God's forgiveness, it should be easy for us to forgive others. God's forgiveness for every one of his children is not dependent on how grave or intentional we are. All he asks is that we confess our sin to be forgiven (1 Jn 1:9). Another main reason to forgive is because Jesus commands it. In fact, when his disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, forgiveness was stated as an action and reaction segment (Lk 11:4).

What's the cost of God's forgiveness to us? The price has already been paid for every one of our sins through the blood of Jesus, regardless of its gravity, intentions of the perpetrator or whether they deserve forgiveness or not. If God has already forgiven someone, how can we withhold forgiveness from them?

Bottom line:

Forgiveness is a choice, but it should be an easy one for all Christians. We should make efforts to reconcile and forgive others regardless of what they've done to us, knowing the price has already been paid for our own sins and theirs, even when we don't deserve it.

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