

Sunday worship

Join online

<http://bit.ly/3TSxxek>

Watch on YouTube

<http://bit.ly/3aCxmjW>

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 you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV)

THEME FOR THE YEAR

Faith in action
(2 Thessalonians 1:11)

We're trusting God to enable us to do all the good things faith prompts in us in Jesus name (NLT).

DID YOU KNOW?

December Prayer and Fasting will span **7 days**: from **1 – 7 Dec**. We'll pray in our homes each evening and meet on **Friday, 8 Dec** to pray together.

HOW DO YOU DEFINE YOURSELF?

We all define ourselves in different ways, but ultimately our "I am ___" statements are not as reliable as God's "You are ___" statements. Here are some of the things He says about us:

You are of value
You are My friends
You are clean
You are light
You are My people

Image source(s): <https://www.biblicalcounselingcoalition.org/2014/06/09/how-do-you-define-yourself/> // <https://likeananchor.com/2017/07/22/letting-god-define-you/>



Sunday 26 November 2023

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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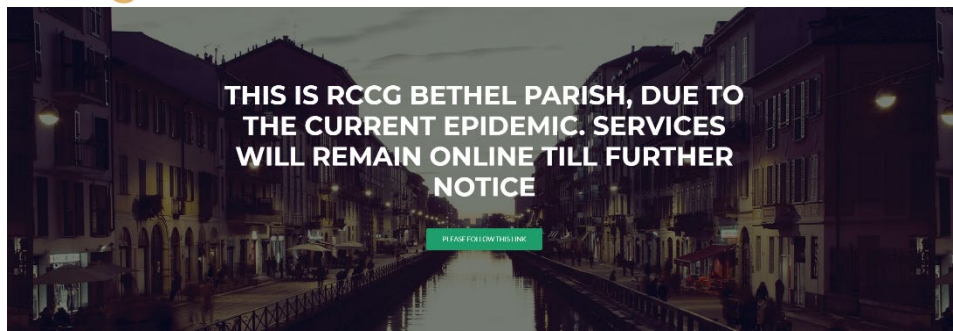
admin@rccgbethel.church

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

Defining you

Text: 1 John 3:1-3

Are you righteous? Our text today says we're God's children, but the world does not recognise us as God's children because they don't know God. Why do we allow the world to define us? Some say unbelievers know who are Christian, but how can they if they don't know God? They may look at the outward and what they think they know about the law. But are we saved by law or by grace? At best, they can only judge superficially (1 Sam 16:7).

How do you define yourself? For example, Jesus had different definitions from what Simon Peter and others called themselves (Lk 5:6-10; 18:9-14). Only God can define who we are because he made us and knows what we're capable of. David saw himself in the light of how God made him (Psa 139:14; 18:29-36; 23:1-6). When he said "**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me...**," he wasn't quoting a mantra or cliché. He meant it.

Our text today says he hasn't shown us what we'll be, but we know we'll be like him (1 Jn 3:2 NLT). However, Jesus Christ is the mirror than can show us what we look like right now. He's the word of God and we can see ourselves in the **right** mirror of his word (Js 1:23-25; 2 Cor 3:17; 18). Someone said: "**When you change your mind, you change your life.**"

NHS is now offering Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) to patients suffering from mental illness. It is based on the concept that "**thoughts, feelings, physical sensations and actions are interconnected, and that negative thoughts and feelings can trap you in a negative cycle**".¹ It is true that negative thoughts often reinforce one another, magnifying unfortunate circumstances, problems or events out of proportion.

Those thoughts need to be challenged or they become entrenched. Instead, we must look into the mirror of God's word for the truth (Jn 8:38). God's word called us the righteousness of God (2 Cor 5:21 AMP). Therefore, we're righteous because we don't become righteous by what we do. When we know we're the righteousness of God, it becomes easier to see ourselves that way daily. When we doubt it, we become someone else (Matt 14:28-30).

Transformation doesn't just happen, it is by conscious determined efforts (2 Cor 10:3-6). As we begin to live our lives as though God is our glory and the lifter up of our heads, that our Father owns the cattle on a thousand hills and we're more than conquerors, we don't live as though our Father cannot meet our needs (Psa 3:3; 50:10-11; Rom 8:37).

Paul told us too (Rom 12:2 NLT). We must see ourselves as God sees us by looking at the mirror of the word of God and consciously letting it change our thinking. In "**That Incredible Christian**" by A.W. Tozer, he wrote "**Faith rests upon the character of God, not upon the demonstrations of laboratory or logic.**"²

Bottom line:

We're incredible (2 Cor 5:17) and God has not given us the spirit of fear (2 Tim 1:7). We must have the right mind-set and challenge thoughts or anything that tells us differently.

¹ <https://bit.ly/40YaC6s> // ² <https://www.awtozerclassics.com/articles/article/4938678/86406.htm>

RCCG Bethel Parish

Pillar of truth ... defining the future today