TODAY'S FACILITATORS

PRAYER: Bimmy

OFFERING: Yetunde

WORD: Pastor

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

"Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

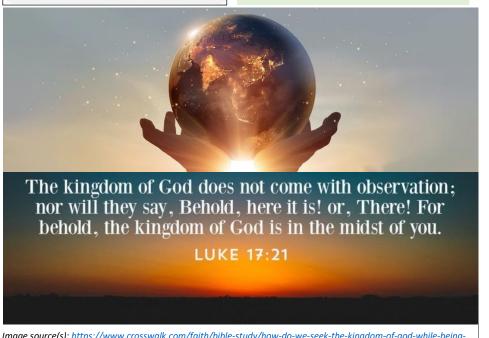
John 3:2-3 (NKJV)

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.





WEEKLY SERVICES & MEETINGS

SUNDAY

Thanksgiving / Worship service
From 10am

FRIDAY

Prayer meeting / Bible study From 7pm

RCCG Bethel Parish

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WEB: www.rccgbethel.church

Image source(s): https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/bible-study/how-do-we-seek-the-kingdom-of-god-while-being-here-on-earth.html // https://agodman.com/kingdom-god-entrance-development-reality-church/

Our 'must-visit' website



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

- 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

- 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.
- 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.
- 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 the Kingdom of God

Text: Matthew 4:17-25

The most important focus of our Christian walk should be how to live for the Kingdom of God. Everything Jesus did was about the Kingdom of God or Heaven. For example, he made it the focal point of the Lord 's Prayer and charged us to seek the Kingdom of God above all else (Matt 6:9-13; 33). But we must first understand what it means.

In our text today, the first calling of the Kingdom is to die to self and all that's been before. Hence, the disciples had to leave all they've known to follow Jesus. The Bible, from the Old to the New Testament had a lot to say about the Kingdom (e.g. Isa 9:7; Dan 2:44; 7:13-14). In Daniel 7:13-14, we see a vision of Jesus and the requirements for the Kingdom of God.

Jesus would later call himself the Son of man as Daniel called him (Dan 7:13). Daniel described those who belong to the Kingdom as holy or the saints (Dan 7:18; 25). All of us delivered from darkness into the light are included (Col 1:13). It is a Kingdom that cannot be shaken (Heb 12:38), but Daniel also described a resistance (Dan 7:23-27). However, Revelations 11:15 tells us God's Kingdom will endure (Rev 21:1).

The Kingdom of God

In the Kingdom of God, there's only one supreme king and that's God. It is not a democracy. We may be a royal priesthood (1 Pet 2:9), but we're only subjects, expected to submit, of our own free will, to do his will. However, we must first abandon all (Gal 2:20). Seeking your own will is not submission to the Kingdom (John 8:36). In God's kingdom therefore, to live we must first die to self.

The Kingdom is in constant conflict to the present world system, ruled by the Prince of this world (John 14:30). Those who have not submitted to the Kingdom of God is doing the will of the Prince of this world: the devil (Matt 13:36-40). Jesus told a couple of parable in Matthew 13:44-46 to illustrate The Kingdom of God is worth giving everything up for.

Understanding all of these is important so we can live according to the Kingdom of God. We must know that submitting to God's will and the Kingdom must be total, with nothing held back. We can either live according to those principles or according to the principles of self and the world. When we resist or fail to give all to the Kingdom of God. we're not in submission.

Bottom line:

Resistance to the Kingdom of God never goes until we die. Therefore, we must be prepared to lay down our lives daily / all the time, and abandon all to choose God's Kingdom.

RCCG Bethel Parish

Pillar of truth ... defining the future today