

TODAY'S FACILITATORS

PRAYER: Remy

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

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith.

1 Peter 5:8-9a (NIV)

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.

Praying in the Spirit puts on the armor and its power that makes it work.

Breast Plate of Righteousness
Ephesians 6:14
Isiah 59:17 / Philippians 3:9
1 Thessalonians 5:8

Sword of the Spirit
Word of God
Ephesians 6:17
Hebrews 4:12
John 6:63

Shoes of the Gospel of Peace
Ephesians 6:10 / Isiah 52:7 / Galatians 5:15

Helmet of Salvation
Ephesians 6:17 / Isiah 59:17
1 Thessalonians 5:8

Shield of Faith
Ephesians 6:16 / 1 John 5:4

Belt of Truth
Ephesians 6:14
John 14:6

*Ephesians 6:11-12
Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, the rulers of darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*



Sunday 9 August 2020

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
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WEB: www.rccgbethel.church

Our 'must-visit' website



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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

Spiritual warfare (Part 2)

Text: Ephesians 6:10-18

When we started looking into this last week, we determined that our enemies are not physical such as are represented in war. They are spiritual. Like Paul's audience, Africans may understand what Paul is talking about because many of us grew up knowing there are malevolent powers around us.

There's a curious story in 2 Kings 13:14-19. King Joash was fearful at the prospect of Elisha dying and the prophet tried to build his confidence. He asked the king to get his bow and arrows and gave him a simple instruction. "**Shoot,**" Elisha said. The King obeyed, but stopped after the third time. Elisha was angry and told the king he would've "**annihilated Syria**" if he'd continued shooting. As prophesied, the king was never able to completely defeat his enemies, but ask yourself why the king stopped after three shots.

While we must not allow fear to paralyse us and cannot attribute everything to spiritual forces, denying their existence is unwise. Understand Satan is not a figure of speech, but a skillful being with an empire and the power to deceive. When you face an enemy, two things are important. First, their strength / capability and weapons. Second, whether you can match or defeat them and if not, if it's best to plead for mercy (Luke 14:31-32).

We also need to consider the battle field. A key strategy of Satan is deceit and making us believe in lies (2 Thess 2:9-12; Matt 24:23-24). Names are important in scripture. For example, God has many names which gives us a different perspective on his character. When the devil was created, he was Lucifer, a "shining star and son of the morning" (Isa 14:12-17). But he was cast down because of pride and he became angry (Rev 12:12). His name changed to deceiver.

What you believe is who you are. You may have heard about the birds caged for a long time, who refused to escape after they were set free, still believing they were still caged or can't fly. The devil employs our weaknesses to deceive us and he's a masterclass at deception, telling us some truth to validate the lie he wants us to believe.

We see that in Genesis 3:4-5. He told Eve she'll be like God. The truth is they were already like God. He did the same when he tried to tempt Jesus, knowing Jesus was hungry and God had already given him everything (Luke 4:1-13). Again and again, he makes promises, creates fears and takes advantage of our weakness. It is why the scripture says my people perish because of lack of knowledge (Hos 4:6).

Peter's denial of Jesus offer another classic example (Luke 22:57-60). Jesus warned Peter Satan was on the warpath (Luke 22:31). In spite of the warning, Peter couldn't resist because of the devil's skillful deception and because Peter was like his name, a reed and changeable. That let him down again after he experienced a powerful visitation from the Holy Spirit and was told not to discriminate (Acts 10:9-15). Faced with criticism from his peers, he reverted to form (Gal 2:11-16). David's weakness for the opposite sex was also exploited when the enemy set a trap for him (2 Sam 11:1-27).

Bottom line:

We must understand there is warfare and learn to identify situations orchestrated to exploit our weakness(es). Know the battle field, how to assess strengths / weaknesses and employ the armoury God has given us to guide against becoming a casualty.

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