

TODAY'S FACILITATORS

PRAYER: Yomi

OFFERING: Austin

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

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.

1 Peter 3:15 (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.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Money and Christianity

Text: Matthew 19:23-24

The couple walked out with little more than a baby buggy packed with bulging food carrier bags and the clothes on their backs. Through the open door, I could see a chair and a myriad of other stuff, and heard the surprise in the reporter's voice when she asked what would happen to the rest of their belongings. The man replied with a throwaway gesture of his arm: "Leave it. It's just junk." Clearly, this man didn't have any problem leaving all behind, unlike the rich young ruler (Matt 19:16-22).

So, is our money / possessions standing between us and God? What couldn't we leave behind and consider "junk" in comparison with following Christ? Paul said in Philippians 3:8: "**Everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ...**" Jesus warned against laying up treasures for ourselves on earth (Matt. 6:20). We must learn to be content, whatever our circumstances (Phil 4:11-13; 2 Cor 12:9-10).

Bottom line:

God is not against being rich, but Christians cannot afford to chase after money so much that it becomes the goal rather than a means to an end. That's why Paul warns that "**the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil**" in 1 Tim 6:9-10.



Sunday 11 October 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
Limeharbour, London E14 9TS
PHONE: 07889906677 || **EMAIL:** 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

Money and Christianity

Text: Matthew 19:23-24

There's no doubt money is important in our societal constructs even to Christians. But it is problematic for Christians whether probably because of texts like these. We're guilty if we have it and worried if we don't. We deride church leaders who seem to collect cars, houses, airplanes ... when there are so much poverty and suffering in the world, likely among members of their congregation.

A few days ago, I listened to one of the presenters on LBC radio ask people to call in and comment on what it means to "make it in the UK". He told them to consider if they've made it and talk about the obstacles some may have. But who decides? What if you think you've made it but others think the opposite?

A curious passage in Revelations 13:16-17 about the mark of the beast may suggest a baseline position. Everyone – small, great, rich, poor, free, a slave – will struggle to buy / sell without the mark of the beast. So money, or in this case, the inability to engage day-to-day living transactions can also create problems. In other words, whatever "making it" may mean for each of us, money is an essential part of sustenance.

However, today's text is not talking about struggling to make a living. So the question is how rich is rich? In other words, what can jeopardise our chances of being with Christ or in heaven? We may have noticed texts in the New Testament tend to frown upon being rich. In most cases, support for prosperity are often found in the Old Testament, many of which are questionable.

In addition to today's text if read in context from verse 16, where we find the story about the rich young ruler, there's the rich fool in Luke 12:16-21 and verses like "**Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness...**" and many others (Matt 6:33; 19-20; Mark 8:36; 1 Tim 6:6-7; 9-10) in the New Testament. Deuteronomy 28:1-11 is a popular source of texts supporting the theory that God wants us to prosper. There are conditions, but verse 11 says God will give us prosperity, as long as we diligently obey (verse 1), and Proverbs 10:22 tells us it is a blessing to be rich with no sorrow added while Proverbs 21:20 makes it clear that it is wise to have wealth and luxury. Many of us may identify however with the laments in Psalm 73, implying only the wicked prosper.

Rich / wealthy characters like the Shunammite woman who helped Elisha in 2 Kings 4:8 and Abraham in Genesis 13:2 are great case studies too. And in the New Testament, there's Joseph of Arimathea (Matt. 27:57). However, warnings about dangers of prosperity are rife throughout the Bible (e.g. Deut 6:10-25; 8:11-20; 32:15-18) and these may be daunting for wary Christians, while Jeremiah 17:7-8 emphasises that trusting in God is best.

These verses may support conclusions that God is not opposed to Christians being rich. The crux of the problem is our relationship with God rich or not, as the case may be. Specifically, what value do we place on that relationship in our day-to-day living? As an illustration, what happened when I watched a family evicted from their home in Houston on TV a few weeks ago may be helpful.

Continued >>

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