

\*\*\* GIVE THANKS \*\*\*

# Thanksgiving Service

## 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).

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

*What do your words / actions say about your knowledge of God? ... continued*

*Text: 2 Kings 5:1-19*

**How do we increase our knowledge of God?**

[1] Learning about him through his word (1 Pet 2:2-3; Heb 4:12; Psa 19:7-11), [2] through total obedience (Js 1:22-25; Rom 12:1-2; 1 Jn 5:2-3), [3] taking guidance from the Holy Spirit (Jn 16:5-16; 1 Cor 2:10), [4] having unshakeable faith in God and trusting him (Js 14:6-7; Heb 11:6), [5] proving and exercising that faith, again and again (Js 1:2-4; Rom 10:17), [6] through prayers (Rom 8:26; 1 Thess 5:16-18), [7] taking opportunities to testify of God's acts in our lives and fellowshipping with fellow believers (Acts 1:8; 1 Pet 3:15; Heb 10:25). These are some of the things we can do.

**Bottom line:**

Habakkuk prayed: "**LORD, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, LORD. Repeat them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy.**" (Hab 3:2). If we are indeed God's children, our goal is to be like Christ (1 Jn 3:1-2; 2 Cor 3:18). We must do everything we can to ensure that we are being transformed like Christ.

## VERSE(S) OF THE DAY

The man of too many friends [chosen indiscriminately] will be broken in pieces and come to ruin, but there is a [true, loving] friend who [is reliable and] sticks closer than a brother.

**Proverbs 18:24 (AMP)**

## 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.



Sunday 1 August 2021

# WELCOME

*Redeemed Christian Church of God*

# Bethel

## WEEKLY SERVICES & MEETINGS

### SUNDAY

Thanksgiving / Worship service  
From 10am

### FRIDAY

Prayer meeting / Bible study  
From 7pm

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# 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

*What do your words / actions say about your knowledge of God?*

**Text: 2 Kings 5:1-19**

This is the story of how Naaman was healed of his leprosy. It was a miraculous event, but we may get the impression, at the end, that Naaman's conversion is the real goal (2 Kings 5:15-19). For that to happen, several things had to line up. There was the young Israeli girl, captured and taken from her home and all she knew, to become a maid in his household. Without prompting, she testified of the God she knew, with great conviction.

Naaman believed her enough to go to the king of Syria who in turn wrote a letter to king of Israel, demanding he's healed of his leprosy. When the king of Israel took the letter as a provocation, Elisha heard about his reaction and ask that Naaman is brought to him, declaring he would "**know there is a prophet in Israel**". But Naaman was expecting Elisha to heal him in a certain way and almost left, enraged, until his servant pointed out the error in his thinking.

The young girl, king of Israel and Elisha knew about the God of Israel and yet, had differing views of God and what he can do. How do we see or describe God? Like the young girl, do we have an unshakable knowledge of who he is? Like Elisha, is that knowledge consistent and does it inform our day-to-day actions? Or are we like the king of Israel who must have known about God and Elisha, and yet never thought to refer Naaman to either?

In "The Knowledge of the Holy", A.W. Tozer said "**What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.**" Charles R. Swindoll also said "**A shallow, cheapened view of God leads to a shallow, cheap life.**" And in Daniel 11:32, we're told those "**who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.**"

To illustrate why our view of God is important, let's take a look at Abraham's interactions with God. We see his view of God may have been unclear, cheap or shallow, for example when he asked Sarah his wife to lie and say she was his sister, twice (Gen 12:10-20; 20:1-18). Also when he rejected God's offer to "**exceedingly great reward**", and instead complained about being childless (Gen 15:1-21).

At each of these times, Abraham was revealing that he either didn't know or had forgotten that God can see everything (Prov 15:3; Psa139:1-24), do anything (Matt 19:26; Lk 1:37) and is all he needs (Jn 14:8; Psa 46:1; Eph 3:20; Phil 4:19; 2 Cor 12:9).

But there were times Abraham had an unshakable faith in God and a couple of them have been cited as reasons his faith was "credited to him as righteousness" (Gen 15:6, Rom 4:1-22, Gal 3:6-9, Heb 11:8-10; 17-19). He trusted the God of mercy enough to intercede for Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen 18:16-33) and obeyed God, who he knew could provide (Gen 22:1-14).

We must know our words and actions at any given time say a lot about our knowledge of God, or whether we're behaving as if we know him or not. Like A.W. Tozer said Charles Swindoll implied, there's a cost to incomplete knowledge of God, to us (Dan 11:32) and to people around us (Gal 2:11-13). We see this in Naaman's story, and how those around him brought about his miracle and conversion. It could also make us carnal Christians, inconsistent and living a life of sinfulness (1 Jn 3:6).

If we don't know him, or find that our words and actions do not conform to God's will, on a daily basis, we need to do all we can to address the problem.

*Continued >>*

# RCCG Bethel Parish

*The pillar of truth, defining the future today*