

TODAY'S FACILITATORS

PRAYER: Remy

OFFERING: Isaac

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

Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ.

Colossians 2:8 (NLT)

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

Christian Holy Days Vs Holidays

Text: 1 Corinthians 9:22 / Colossians 2:8-17

A core reason for God's instructions may be seen in Leviticus 23:43. God told the Israelites to celebrate these dates so generations after them may know that he's their God (Gen 18:19). The same should apply to us in the church today.

Apart from observing a Sabbath rest, Jesus warns the religious leaders of his day about "clinging" to the tradition of men (Mk 7:8-9). Paul said in 1 Corinthians 9:22 that he's become "all things to all men". That doesn't mean we should sin nor was he sanctioning pagan practices. In fact, he agreed with Jesus about tradition of men, exploring the clash between them and Christian / God mandated festivals or celebrations (Col 2:8-17). In 1 Corinthians 10:25-26; 31, three things may also be clear.

(1) Our conscience should be clear, (2) we must be careful "for the sake of [other people's] conscience," and (3) we must glorify God in everything.

Bottom line:

It is important that we understand our motives as we celebrate any Christian festival and ensure our practices doesn't make others sin.



Sunday 12 December 2021

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

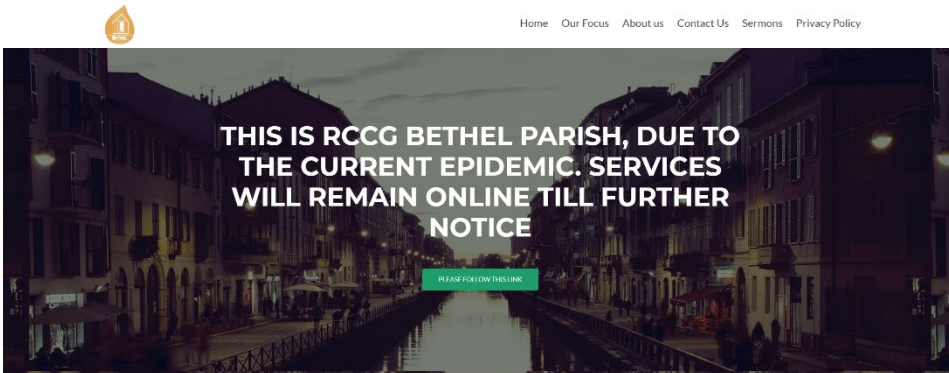
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Our 'must-visit' website



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

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

Christian Holy Days Vs Holidays

Text: 1 Corinthians 9:22 / Colossians 2:8-17

The Christian calendar has been set for centuries now and a few events include Christmas and Easter, both along with New Year's, Valentine's Day, Halloween and some others thought to originate from ancient pagan practices of other nations or idol worship. In fact, the practice of Christmas and Easter are thought to pre-date Christ and neither falls on the actual dates of their celebrations.

For this and other reason, several have suggested Christmas and Easter shouldn't be celebrated by Christians. It is clear from the Scriptures that God didn't want the Israelites to be corrupted by practices from other nations, often inspired by idol worship (Jer 10:2-4; 1 Thess 5:22). However, others have suggested it is really not the observance of these practices that is the problem, but the meanings we attach to them and the impact of our behaviour on those around us (1 Cor 9:19-22; Tit 1:15).

To ensure the Israelites abstain from idol worship and practices from other nations, God gave them clear instructions about days or festivals practices that should be observed or kept holy. There are 7 main ones, called the feasts of the Lord. Exploring God's specification for them may suggest how we can approach other practices.

1. **Passover:** A 1-day festival with its roots in the liberation of the Israelites from Egypt (Exo 12:5-14; Lev 23:5; Matt 26:18-20; 26:28; see also 1 Cor 11:23-26; Matt 8:16-17; Jn 1:29; 13:4-15; Rev 5:9; 12; 13:8; Isa 53:3-7; Gal 2:20).
2. **Feast of unleavened bread:** A 7-day festival. The symbolism of the unleavened bread, which is about removing impurities is quite interesting (Exo 12: 15-17; 33-34, 39:39; 13:3-10; Lev 23: 6-8; Josh 5:11; 2 Chr 8:13; 30:21; 35:17; Ezra 6:22; 1 Cor 5:6-7).
3. **Feast of Pentecost / Feast of weeks / Feast of harvest:** A 7-weeks festival, starting fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Lev 23:15-16; Exo 23:16a). It is also typified by the Pentecost in Acts 2:1-4, just over seven weeks after Jesus' crucifixion on Passover, when the disciples were baptised by the Holy Spirit.
4. **Feast of trumpets:** Celebrated on the first day of the seventh month (Lev 23:24-25; Num 29:1; 10:1-10; Josh 6:4; Neh 8:1-3; 9-12; Rev 8-11).
5. **Day of atonement:** Atonement is becoming one with God, although it is thought we no longer need the blood of goats and calves because we have the sacrificial blood of Jesus (Heb 9:6-7; 12). It is the day Israel proclaims liberty, at the start of the holy year of Jubilee. The rituals of the Day of Atonement are detailed in Leviticus 16 (Num 29:7; Lev 23:26; 25:9-10; Rev 20).
6. **Feast of tabernacles / Feast of ingathering:** A 7-day festival. Involves living in booths or tabernacles—temporary dwellings—for the seven days (Lev 23:39-43; Exo 23:16; 34:22; Zech 14:16-19; Jn 7:2; 8-9).
7. **The eighth day / Last great day / The final harvest:** Celebrated on the last day after the 7-day Feast of Tabernacles (Lev 23:36; 39; Num 29:35; 2 Chr 7:9; Neh 8:18; Jn 7-9; Rev 20).

The weekly Sabbath may be included too, as a day of rest each week. It is clear, especially by the time Jesus came, that the Israelites have abandon most of these in favour of their own practices and most churches have carried this habit on ever since. The Church of England's events calendar for example contain the following: Epiphany, Lent and Ash Wednesday, Mothering Sunday, Pentecost or Whit Sunday, Week of Prayer. Although not specified in the bible, certain verses support most of these dates.

RCCG Bethel Parish

Pillar of truth ... defining the future today