

TODAY'S FACILITATORS

PRAYER: Yetunde

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

Do not fear [anything], for I am with you; Do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, be assured I will help you; I will certainly take hold of you with my righteous right hand [a hand of justice, of power, of victory, of salvation].

Isaiah 41:10 (AMP)

THEME FOR THE YEAR

Our theme this year is to **enlarge and build better (Isaiah 54:2-3)**, and by God's grace, we're trusting that the boundary lines will fall for us in pleasant places (Amen).

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.

Love
is the antidote
to loneliness.

Rick Warren

Image source(s): https://www.faithgateway.com/can-overcome-loneliness/#.Yqfv8t_P2ba



Sunday 13 February 2022

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

How do Christians deal with loneliness?

Text: Matthew 27:45-48

Loneliness is the feeling we get when our need for rewarding social contact and relationships is not met. There's a difference between being alone and being lonely. While being alone is a choice, loneliness is enforced and sometimes not under the sufferers control. As Christians, we can often seek solitude and isolation e.g. to pray or be alone with God, but could make us susceptible, in danger of becoming lonely.

Loneliness starts with an awareness that we are or feel alone and that may happen when surrounded by others or in a crowd. Having lots of social contact or being in a relationship or part of a family, whatever the size, does not prevent loneliness. It may start by feeling misunderstood, persecuted, sometimes unto death, or uncared for, and usually a state of mind or beliefs that may or may not be accurate. That suggests it can be resolved by changing our thinking process.

There are four main ways Christians can deal with loneliness.

[1] Fellowship with God (Prayer): Jesus set an example for us in the way he dealt with loneliness (Matt 26:36-46; 1 Pet 5:7). Instead of letting it drive him away, it drove him towards God instead (Matt 27:46). For example, reading John 17:1-26, we see a lonely man with a heavy weight on his shoulder, well aware he would soon leave his disciples defenceless and undergoing the most difficult period of his ministry. Contrast with Elijah's reaction in similar circumstances (1 Kings 19:1-14).

[2] Fellowship with God (Word of God): Reading the scriptures can be encouraging (Eph 6:13-17). Along with verses like Romans 8:35-39, we have stories about Elijah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego, Johah, David, Peter, Paul and so on and we can learn from how they experienced and deal with loneliness.

[3] Fellowship with one another: Instead of pubs, raves and other social gatherings, Christians have fellowship and that should offer a worthy alternative to combat loneliness (Heb 10:24-26). There are also better chances of acceptance or engagement with others because there shouldn't be a necessity for specific social skills, intelligence or political correctness etc., to participate. Everyone should be welcomed and accepted, even people who hate or persecute us (Prov 27:17; Rom 15:7; Matt 5:46-48; Gal 3:27-28).

[4] Discipleship: I've put this last, but it is not to give the impression that it is not important (2 Tim 2:1-2). Being accountable to someone helps us maintain our balance, but it also offer opportunities to seek help / counsel sooner, if we run into difficulties. In the same way, we have a responsibility to disciple others and help those coming up behind us (Matt 28:18-20).

Bottom line:

This list is not exhaustive and doesn't stop us seeking remedies such as NHS counselling / therapy or social gatherings like book clubs and so on. Crucially, we need to stop reacting like Elijah in our lonely periods and react like Jesus.

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