

*** 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).

VERSE(S) OF THE DAY

For the Lord your God is living among you. He is a mighty savior. He will take delight in you with gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful songs.

Zephaniah 3:17 (NLT)

GROWTH & ADVANCEMENT

Our theme this year is to **enlarge and build better (Isalah 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.



Sunday 6 March 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

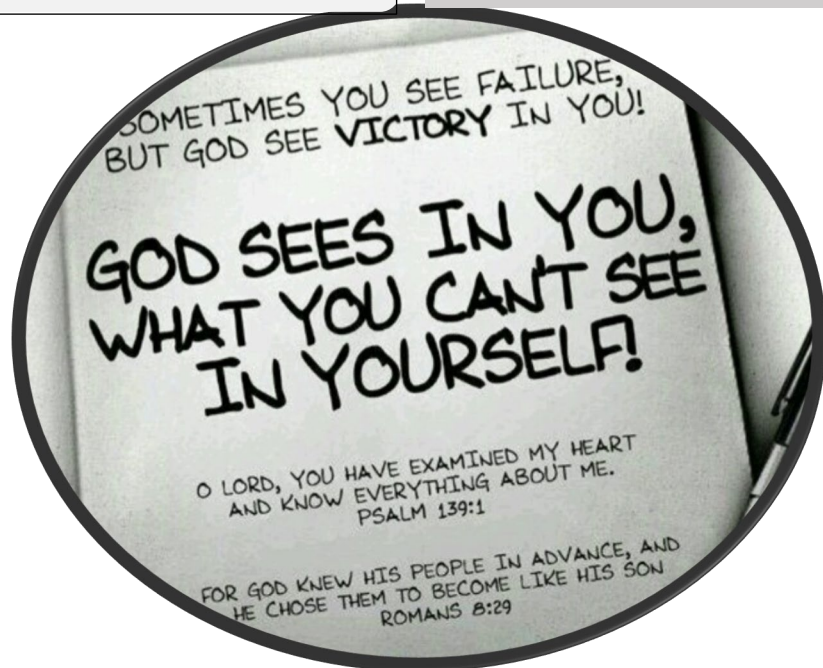
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Our 'must-visit' website



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THIS IS RCCG BETHEL PARISH, DUE TO THE CURRENT EPIDEMIC. SERVICES WILL REMAIN ONLINE TILL FURTHER NOTICE

PLEASE CONTINUE

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

False identities

Text: Colossians 1:18-23

In John 8:2-11, Jesus challenged a crowd asking him to judge a woman they considered a sinner. He told them to stone the woman if they're without any sin. One thing we can see learn from the incident is that he wasn't talking to his disciples. So, why is it that we use this text to guilt-trip ourselves? When Paul said **"all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"** to the Romans, do we notice he was talking about Christians in a generic sense (Rom 3:23)? The same goes for Isaiah's statement that our **"righteousnesses are as filthy rags"** (Isa 64:6) or in James 5:16, when we're told to confess our sins.

In Numbers 21:4-9, the Israelites sinned yet again and were punished with fiery serpents. When they cried to God, he set up a bronze serpent and told them to look up at it for salvation. He did the same with Jesus, for us. All we had to do to be saved is to look upon him (Rom 8:1-3). When we're connected to Christ, his truth should set us free, but the fact is we often look into the word of God and forget (Js 1:22-25). The mirror of God's word should show us the way God sees us and we can see that in our text today. God sees us as **"holy, and blameless, and above reproach"** (Col 1:22).

One of the heavy burdens we carry around with us is guilt. Like David after he took Bathsheba as his wife, we feel we don't have a right to approach God (2 Sam 12:7-13a; Psa 51:1-17). So we run to others to act as go-between, because we believe they're holier. The truth is that God sees us the way Solomon sees his love in Songs 4:7. Note God's response to David when Nathan confronted him (2 Sam 12:13b-14).

We are not talking about sinless perfection. We must set ourselves free from guilt and constant fear of punishment. With God, it's not carrot and stick. He tells us who and what he is and we become transformed into his image. We sin because we try to fulfil an image that does not exist. It is why Satan was able to convince Eve to disobey God (Gen 3:1-4).

The bible teaches us that Jesus died for our sins, once and for all time (Rom 6:10). This may be a challenging concept to accept, but it's the truth and we need to believe it (Col 1:23). The Israelites never saw themselves as God saw them (Num 23:8; 21). Therefore, they continued to sin and never reached the promise land (Num 14:20-23). If we examine the weapons of our warfare, it is about having a total and complete Christian lifestyle (2 Cor 10:4-6; Eph 6:11-18). When we live by God's standard, we have nothing to fear.

Bottom line:

We must not continue to operate under guilt and fear God has not placed on us. Stop trying to please God in your own strength or live with the weight of sin upon you as though you're not good enough or underserving of God's blessing. The word of God says the just shall live faith (Rom 1:17). Live in that truth and come boldly to him, daily (Heb 4:16).

RCCG Bethel Parish

The pillar of truth, defining the future today