

*** 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

He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.

Proverbs 28:13 (NKJV)

GROWTH & ADVANCEMENT

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.

**Win over Sin with
The Blood of Jesus**
In Him we have redemption
through His blood,
the forgiveness of sins,
according to the riches of
His grace
Ephesians 1:7 (NKJV)

Image source(s): <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/victory-in-jesus--754493743833076698/>



Sunday 1 May 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

Let's talk about sin

Text: Colossians 2:11-15

Last week, we talked about "*empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense*" from human thinking (Col 2:8 NLT) and the contrast to the Godly way of thinking. We often either focus on sin a lot or try to avoid it entirely. The bible says all have sinned (Rom 3:23) and we're told all we have to do is confess them (1 Jn 1:9) and Paul once described the conflicts he experiences between doing good and evil (Rom 7:15-20). However, traditionally focus is often more on behaviours seen physically.

When Hezekiah was told he's about to die, he prayed and God answered his prayer and spared him (2 Kn 20:1-11; Isa 38:1-8). However, later in his life, he made the grievous mistake that doomed generations of descendants after him. He showed Babylon envoy all the treasures of the palace and when challenged by Isaiah, his response was to say as long as the repercussions doesn't happen in his lifetime, God's word is good (2 Kn 20:12-19; 2 Chr 32:31).

From this point of view, we can say for all he did to eradicate idol worship from Israel (2 Kn 18:1-4) and God's reward for his faith in his saving grace and mercy (2 Kn 20:6), in the examination that mattered most, Hezekiah failed God's test (2 Chr 32:31; in context 2 Kings 18-20; 2 Chronicles 29-32; Isaiah 38-39).

God's grace and mercy can get us a long way. When we fall into sin, it often leads to reputational damage for the church and that's why we should address and talk about sin. Sometimes, instead of confronting sin, we cover it up and the cover-up becomes the greater sin and a more devastating reputational damage. The same thing happens in our lives too.

In this text, we see that Christ's approach to sin is different. We've all gone through a spiritual circumcision, which cuts away our sinful nature (Col 2:11). It is a permanent process to eradicate the nature that sins. This cannot be done by will power. To stop sinning, we need to work on ourselves and believe that we no longer have the sinful nature in us. That is the only way we can stay away from sin.

The book of Romans explains this in detail. When we become a Christian, there's a difference between us and those not in Christ. It is not about sinless perfection, but a nature that believes we are no longer slaves to sin (Rom 6:1-7) and that we're children of light and cannot live in darkness (Eph 5:8). There must be a clear demarcation between our lives and darkness. It is not by our strength, but by the grace of God.

Bottom line:

God perfected his salvation through his son, Jesus Christ. Let us believe it and know that we can only be saved by grace through faith (Eph 2:8).

RCCG Bethel Parish

The pillar of truth, defining the future today