

TODAY'S FACILITATORS

PRAYER: Ben

OFFERING: Austin

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

For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," ... and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

Romans 13:9-10 (NKJV)

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 visit our website to find out how.

SELF LOVE

We ought to fear a man who hates himself, for we are at risk of becoming victims of his anger and revenge. Let us then try to lure him into self-love.

Friedrich Nietzsche

Image source(s): <https://lovelovething.com/quick-tip-take-a-minute-to-love-yourself/> // <https://quotefancy.com/quote/809154/Friedrich-Nietzsche-We-ought-to-fear-a-man-who-hates-himself-for-we-are-at-risk-of>



Sunday 18 September 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

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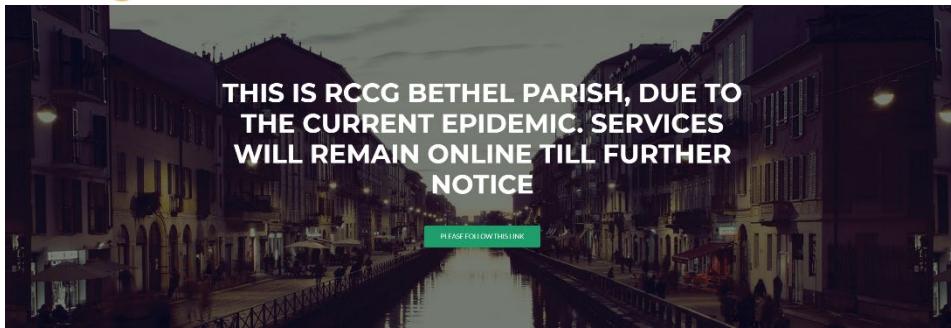
admin@rccgbethel.church

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

Self-love

Text: 1 Thessalonians 2:4-6

Things seem to be moving so fast these days. For example, during this last week, after the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, we've moved from the Elizabethan age to the Carolean era, under King Charles III. This is the backdrop against which we should read our text today. Speaking to the Thessalonians, Paul told them although our purpose is to please God and not people, God alone is the only one able to examine our motives.

We sometimes do many things because we want to please people and not God. The scriptures tells us whatever we do, we should do it as unto God (Col 3:23-24), but how often do we think of that or consider our acts in that way? One test is when we do exactly the same thing if no one's around to see us and that should be our goal, knowing that God sees all (Heb 6:10).

In fact, Paul went further to say he doesn't engage in flattery or pretense about being their friends, just to get money from them. He never sought praise either from them (1 Thess 2:5-6). It may be odd to hear Paul talk about not seeking praise. Do we often do that or hold out for commendations as conditions of our service? It is sometimes useful to motivate ourselves, but the bible sometimes cautions on the opposite and tells us not to love ourselves unto death (Matt 22:34-40; Rev 12:11; 1 Cor 9:27).

Maybe that's why the scriptures told men to love their wives as they love themselves (Eph 5:28-30). If a man's not kind to himself or doesn't know how to love himself, chances are they won't be able to love anyone else and they'll seek affirmation and their motivation from the wrong sources. That may be why Elijah was so dispirited he prayed he might die, until an angel came and tended to him, teaching him to rest and love himself (1 Kn 19:1-9). He needed that for the hard journey ahead of him.

Be kind to yourself because often, not many people will be kind to you in life (1 Kn 19:9-10). When you feel alone and challenged or think no one's ever experienced what you're going through, remember Elijah and know also that God loves you. He's ready and willing to provide and to tend to your cares for the journey ahead of you. He's the only one that can renew your strength too (Isa 40:28-31; Psa 18:28-36). That's why Jesus cautioned us to live in the moment and stop worrying (Matt 6:25-34).

Bottom line:

Instead of seeking commendation and affirmation from man, love yourself, and love and seek strength from God. Instead of flattery and pretense, be yourself. Our drive, devotion, inspiration and sense of self should be from God alone. Wait upon him and

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