

TODAY'S FACILITATORS

PRAYER: Akin

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

He [God, the Father] has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 1:13-14 (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.

Don't think of Satan as a harmless cartoon character with a red suit and a pitchfork. He is very clever and powerful, and his unchanging purpose is to defeat God's plans at every turn - including His plans for your life. — **Billy Graham**

Image source(s): <https://www1.cbn.com/questions/how-powerful-satan/> || <https://faithgateway.com/blogs/christian-books/bible-verses-about-satan-is-real/>



Sunday 16 October 2022

WELCOME

Redeemed Christian Church of God

Bethel

WEEKLY SERVICES & MEETINGS

SUNDAY

Thanksgiving / Worship service
From 10am

FRIDAY

Prayer meeting / Bible study
From 7pm

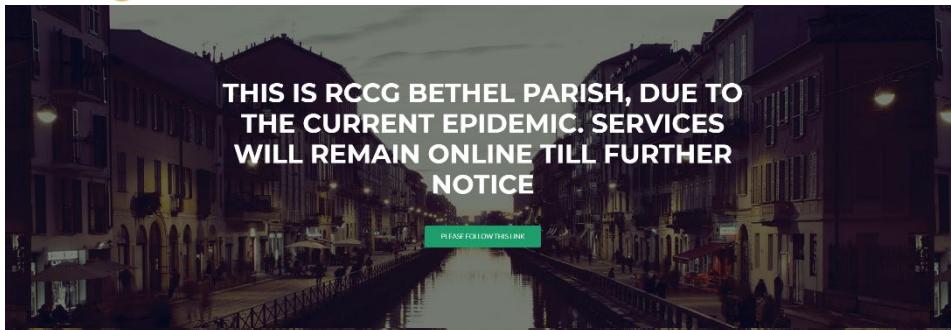
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Our 'must-visit' website



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

Satan 101

Text: 1 Thessalonians 2:17-18

We will continue our study of the book of Thessalonians and focus on these two verses today. Paul admitted Satan was more powerful than his own will and desires. No one likes it when prevented from doing what they're eager to do or worked hard towards. We become frustrated, depressed and may give up eventually. How is that possible when Paul serves a sovereign God? What's more, Paul was actually trying to support God's people.

It is impossible not to wonder about that. Who is Satan and why's he able to stop a believer from doing what he wants to do? He's defined as an adversary who opposes or stops another in purpose and action. He could transform himself and be deceitful to seduce his prey (2 Cor 11:13-15). You may've seen pictures of Satan with horns and so on. In fact, no one knows what he looks like or his gender, even if pronouns for him in the scriptures are masculine.

He was an angel and a master of disguises. Therefore, looking for him in what we can see is a waste of time (Eph 2:1-2). We need to unmask him first. He blinds minds so they don't see or comprehend God's good news. We may find it challenging to believe he can overpower God's will. That's because Satan is in control of this world (2 Cor 4:3-4). His cunning plan is simple, to seduce and deceive us with clever salesmanship, until he lures us away from God's will.

The truth is, his sole intent is to enslave us (Rom 6:16). The question for us is whether it's possible for Satan to stop a child of God. Theoretically, that should be impossible and the scriptures back that up (Romans 8:28-39; Deut 15:4-7; Matt 26:11). One reason is because we're no longer under his control (Eph 2:1-2; Col 1:13). However, that's when we accept and believe we're not of this world (Jn 17:15-16).

Therefore, there's no need to be afraid when we read verses like the text today. Satan cannot prevent the children of God from doing anything (1 Jn 3:9-10). Compare 1 Thessalonians 2:17-18 with Acts 16:6-7; 9-10. We can see how the Apostles had to bow to the Holy Spirit and remain where they are.

It suggests that God also stop us from doing certain things (Num 22:21-39) and when we become frustrated, we can often ascribe that to Satan. However, it could be God urging us to wait (1 Cor 2:7-8). So, that may be why Paul ascribed his frustration differently in these two passages? Just because what Paul wanted to do seemed good doesn't mean it was God's will.

Bottom line:

When God's people are led by the Holy Spirit, delays and obstacles are nothing to be frustrated about because he's promised that everything will work together for our good (Rom 8:28). Delays and obstacles could be turned into waiting and preparation time, in readiness for God's purpose to be achieved in our lives.

RCCG Bethel Parish

Pillar of truth ... defining the future today