

\*\*\* 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).

BEFORE YOU PROCLAIM THE WORD OF TRUTH

"Lead by example. Practice what you preach or don't preach at all. Walk the talk. People watch what you do more than they listen to what you say. Inspire, challenge and encourage people to their best, by doing YOUR best."

Image source(s): <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/368169338263810184/> || <https://biblicalproof.wordpress.com/2022/03/09/practice-what-you-preach/>

## VERSE(S) OF THE DAY

Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.

*Romans 12:9-11 (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).

## Season Programmes

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**Fridays:** Last meeting on 16th Dec

**Xmas Day:** Service from 10-11am

**Watchnite:** 31 Dec, 9pm-12:10am

**New Year:** Thanksgiving, from 10am



Sunday 4 December 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



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

### *Christian view on Qatar world cup criticisms*

#### **Text: Matthew 7:1-3**

As our text show, it is often easier to point out the wrong in others, as parents, religious leaders, faith groups, politicians, citizens and those in positions of authorities. It's a case of do what I say and not what I do. That may be because it's easier for us to believe others are worse sinners than we are and it makes us feel good (Lk 18:9-14).

Throughout his ministry, Jesus did not shy away from confronting the ills of his day. However, he often presented his messages thoughtfully. For example, he called Pharisees, Scribes and religious leaders hypocrites (Matt 23:13-39; Jn 2:13-22; Lk 18:9-14). Yet, he dined with sinners and had compassion on those he was expected to shun (Matt 9:10-17). He even prayed for his accusers, when they crucified him (Lk 23:34). We're called to live a life worthy of imitation, not to sit in judgement over others (e.g. Matt 7:1-3; 1 Pet 2:21-24). We're also warned to be slow to speak (Js 1:19-20 AMP). The truth is there are often nuances on these issues.

"Love the sinner and hate the sin" may be a mantra we try to practice in the church, but several verses in the bible makes this problematic, some no doubt running afoul of human rights laws by any standard today. They include verses prescribing genocide (Deut 20:16-18), anti-LGBTQ+ (Lev 20:13), banning women as leaders or priests (1 Tim 2:11-12), seeming to accept slavery (Eph 6:5), promote child marriages (Num 31:17-18) or child abuse (Pro 13:2) and so on.

As Christians, we should call out injustices, but we must do so with humility. For one thing, we need to accept there are issues we may never understand or be able to explain and give considerations and allowances to historical contexts and other local nuances. Societal laws evolve, for good or bad. We may need to adjust our views accordingly, provided they're not in violation of God's standard and authority (2 Tim 2:19; Acts 5:29).

Often we're less than effective in our evangelism because our words are at dissonance with our lives and actions and this has been pointed out by some in the Qatar scenario. We should avoid knee-jerk emotive reactions that may be ineffective, do in-depth research if necessary, before we contribute anything towards the discourse. We must also align our responses with the word of God and allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us. Jesus left us the Holy Spirit, both to convict us and for that reason (John 16:7-13).

Although Jesus challenged the injustices of his day and the sinfulness around him, many couldn't ignore him, first because he was without sin and also because his messages are presented with nuances and compassion (Matt 7:28-29; 1 Pet 2:22-23). We should ensure we're not hypocrites, so that we can act as light and salt in our communities.

#### **Bottom line:**

If we want people to listen to what we've got to say, we must be perfect, in our thoughts, words and deeds, just like our heavenly father (Matt 5:48).

# **RCCG Bethel Parish**

*The pillar of truth, defining the future today*