

Sunday worship

Join online

<http://bit.ly/3TSxxek>

Watch on YouTube

<http://bit.ly/3aCxmjW>

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

Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord [always doing your best and doing more than is needed], being continually aware that your labor [even to the point of exhaustion] in the Lord is not futile nor wasted [it is never without purpose].

1 Corinthians 15:58 (AMP)

THEME FOR THE YEAR

Faith in action

(2 Thessalonians 1:11)

We're trusting God to enable us to do all the good things faith prompts in us in Jesus name (NLT).

DID YOU KNOW?

Every Sunday, we worship together at **Unit 13, Skylines Village**. When unable to attend, do visit our website or YouTube channel for recorded sessions.



Stay the course. When thwarted try again; harder; smarter. Persevere relentlessly.

John Wooden

That's what wins the race.

Image source(s): <https://quotefancy.com/quote/845024/John-Wooden-Stay-the-course-When-thwarted-try-again-harder-smarter-Persevere-relentlessly>



Sunday 22 January 2023

WELCOME

Redeemed Christian Church of God

Bethel

WEEKLY SERVICES & MEETINGS

SUNDAY

Thanksgiving / Worship service
From 10am

FRIDAY

Prayer meeting / Bible study
From 7pm

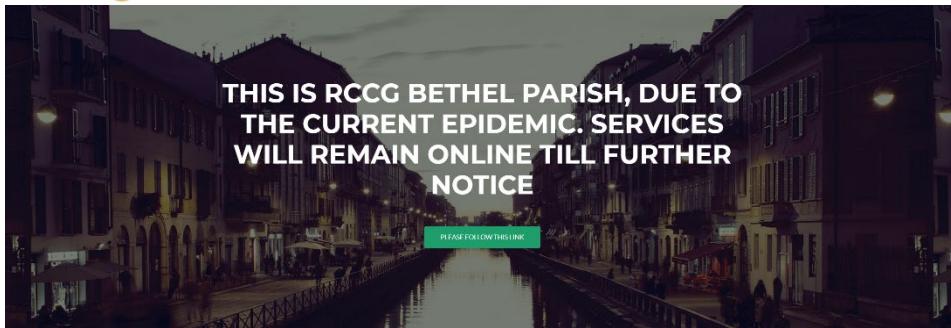
RCCG Bethel Parish

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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

Stay the course

Text: 2 Thessalonians 2:15-17 (NLT)

Paul continued to build on his words to the Thessalonians in our text today, asking them to recall all he's talked about previously, including the man of lawlessness, the day of the Lord and the end of days. He charges us to bear these in mind as we keep a strong grip on the teachings passed on to us and not to let go. In everything, consistency is important.

For example, around this time of the year, we may be full of good intentions, planning to do something about over-indulgence during the Christmas period. If we give up after a few weeks or months, we risk never achieving the goal. To get the results we want, we need to be disciplined and steadfast (2 Thes 2:15 – AMP). There may be other things we want to accomplish over time and several reasons to let go. Are we still on course or just drifting?

We may be energised and looking forward to a fresh start at the beginning of the year, only for this to fizzle out, leaving us adrift for the rest of the year, without realising it. When a ship sets a course, it stays on this course through the storms and the waves until its destination. A ship adrift never reaches its destination, and sometimes our lives are like that.

Paul repeated this charge for steadfastness and going above and beyond because our labour will never be in vain, again and again (e.g. 1 Cor 15:58 – AMP). When we try our best and make small incremental changes consistently, without attempting to do too much, we may find we accomplish our goals more often. The truth is there will come a time when we yearn to do something and are unable to, because strength fails us.

We can use lack of strength or something else as excuses for lack of diligence. When able and genuinely lack strength, God will strengthen us (2 Thes 1:11). That's what happened when Esther was asked to approach the king on behalf of her people. At first, she reminded Mordecai there's a penalty of death for going before the king without summons. Mordecai was not about to let her get away with excuses (Est 4:10-14). His message ended with "**Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?**" (Est 4:14).

If we don't back off and stay the course, God can do remarkable things in our lives. All through the scriptures, we see that. Everyone who persisted without giving up always prevail. God can make a way where there is no way (Isa 43:19). God also promised he will be found by us when we diligently seek him with all our heart (Jer 29:13) and James told us an unstable person cannot receive anything from God (Js 1:7-8).

We need at least three things to succeed this year. The first is **consistency**. Make incremental changes to achieve the goals you set. Second, we know obstacles and challenges will come. **Don't be distracted or change your priorities and goals**. Don't stop. Stay the course. Third, when you meet obstacles and challenges, **return to God**. He will strengthen you. Seek him diligently with all your heart. He will show you the way.

Bottom line:

Like Esther, remember that we may have been put wherever we find ourselves for such a time as this. Let us set our courses and stick diligently to them. Let's aim to excel in what God commits into our hands this year and God will do wonderful things through us.

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