

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

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Ephesians 5:15-17 (NKJV)

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.

There is only one reason we can say, "I will fear no evil" and it's not because evil is not powerful and all around us, but because the Good Shepherd is always with us.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Psalm 23:4

DailyVerses.net

Image source(s): <https://seedbed.com/people-who-say-such-things-fear-no-evil/> || <https://www.a2u2.org/be-not-afraid/>



Sunday 12 February 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

Unit 13, Skylines Village

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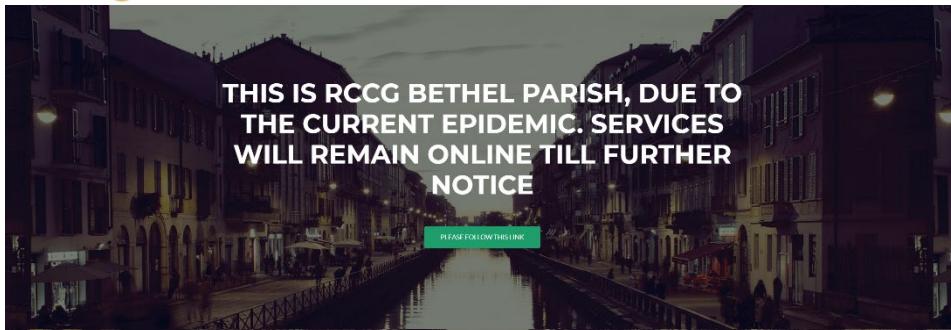
admin@rccgbethel.church

WEB: www.rccgbethel.church

Our 'must-visit' website



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PLEASE FOLLOW THIS LINK

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

The present darkness

Text: 2 Thessalonians 3:1-3 / 2 Timothy 4:18

We tried to answer the woman question last week and may've underestimated how much Paul did to break down barriers for women in the church. Paul's letters make it clear in several texts that he sees them as equals, on par with men and as fellow workers in the kingdom of God (e.g. Rom 16:1-6; Phil 4:2-3; Gal 3:26-29). He also made it clear that men in leadership positions must be faithful to their wives (1 Tim 3:1-3; 12). As Christians, we must value the women God places in our lives.

The world today is not the utopian God created at the beginning, which he called good (Gen 1:31). When we see disasters like the recent earthquakes in Syria and Turkey, and the destruction to property and lives, we may begin to ask ourselves how God can allow it to happen. The truth is that we live in an imperfect world and it's been proven that some of today's catastrophic disasters are caused by man's neglect and actions.

In today's text, Paul prayed for us to be rescued from wicked and evil people (2 Thes 3:2). We may've been encouraged to focus on whatever things are true, just or pure etc (Phil 4:8) and in those contexts, it may be easy to pretend there's no evil or ignore injustice. One of the reasons for this is because we're afraid of evil. Although we know horror movies are contrived from man's imaginations, some are still afraid when they watch them.

Job was said to offer sacrifices on behalf of his children because he was afraid for them (Job 1:1-5; 3:24-26). Where did this fear come from? Is there anywhere in the scriptures where we've been encouraged to fear evil? If not, who taught us to fear evil or death? For example, in the world system, we're encouraged to prepare for death and make a will, but often avoid doing that because we don't want to think about dying.

The scriptures tell us the righteous are bold as lions (Prov 28:1). We should always pray that God deliver us from evil (2 Tim 4:18) because we need not be afraid of evil or challenges in life (Psalm 23:1-6). Instead, we should be strategic in warfare. That's why David never lost a battle. He was prayerful and always strategic, seeking counsel from God always (e.g. 1 Sam 23:1-3; 4-5; 10-11; 12-14; 30:8-9; 2 Sam 2:1-2; 5:17-21; 22-25; 21:1).

For example, David won his battle against his own son by seeking help from God. When he learnt of Ahithophel's betrayal and conspiracy with Absalom, David prayed simply that God must turn the counsel of Ahithophel to foolishness (2 Samuel 15:30-31; 17:5-7; 14; 23). Let's learn from David. We will all go through warfare and experience tribulations (Jn 16:33). All of them can be won in the place of prayer.

Bottom line:

Many battles cannot or need not be fought through physical strengths or means. Like David, Jesus and Paul modelled for us, the weapons of our warfare must be anchored by prayer (Lk 18:1; 1 Thes 5:16-18; 2 Cor 10:4-6). May the evil of each day never find us in Jesus name (Eph 5:16). Amen.

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