

#### 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

Don't wear yourself out trying to get rich. Be wise enough to know when to quit. In the blink of an eye wealth disappears, for it will sprout wings and fly away like an eagle.

THEME FOR THE YEAR

Proverbs 23:4-5 (NLT)

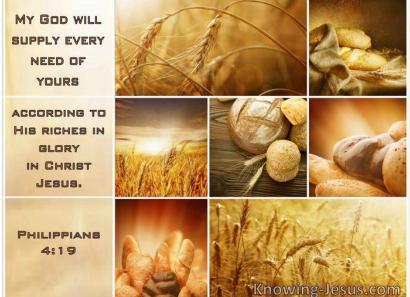
# Faith in action

(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.



For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

1 Timothy 6:10



## **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 (<a href="http://rccgbethel.church/sermons/">http://rccgbethel.church/sermons/</a>). 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 (<a href="http://rccgbethel.church/category/bulletins/">http://rccgbethel.church/category/bulletins/</a>).

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**

- 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 <a href="http://rccgbethel.church/">http://rccgbethel.church/</a>.

#### Mozilla Firefox

- 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.
- In the Home section, select Homepage and new windows and Custom URLs... from the field's drop down.
- Enter or paste the URL: <a href="http://rccgbethel.church/">http://rccgbethel.church/</a> 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.
- 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).
- Click the three horizontal dots to the right of the top menu bar again to close Settings menu.

# FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

### Christianity and wealth

**Text: Matthew 19:16-25** 

This account is not a parable or an illustration. It is a real occurrence and discussion. The man's quest is clear. He wants to know how to get into heaven, but selling all his properties and following Jesus was going too far. The man went away in sorrow and Jesus commented on how difficult it will be for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God (Matt 19:23-24). Several questions may be relevant. Are Christians meant to be rich? Is being rich a hindrance to Christianity? Is Jesus rich?

Jesus didn't tell anyone else to sell all they had. In fact, the Scriptures mentioned several women who ministered to him out of their substance (Lk 8:1-3). However, riches can be a hindrance. People are sometimes drawn to Christ because of something they need. In first world countries where everything works, it may sometimes seem that people behave as if they don't need God. When there's affluence and we have money to buy expensive things, does they become a hindrance to seeking God? For example, some of us are addicted to our devices or social media to the point of intrusiveness, with very little time for anything else. Maybe that's why Moses warned the people of Israel not to forget God when they become comfortable in the Promise Land (Deut 8:10-11).

The woman with the issue of blood saw several physicians and spent all she had for twelve years. She received no healing and the ailment grew worse until she met Jesus and was healed, free of charge (Mk 5:25-27). We may wonder if perhaps she could have saved herself a lot of money by going straight to God in the first place. Would she have been forced to press forward through the crowd to reach Jesus, if she had other options and wasn't at the end of her tether?

When Jesus was on earth, although he was the son of God, he didn't live in a palace and wasn't waited on by servants, but performed miracles that fed thousands. We may ask ourselves if problems draw people closer to God. Paul asked Timothy to counsel the rich and make sure they're not haughty, do good works, share and the goal should be to lay hold on eternal life (1 Tim 6:17-19).

There are scriptures that show it is the will of God for us to prosper (e.g. 3 Jn 1:2). Anything can distract anyone if we let it, including poverty and wealth (Prov 30:8-9). Poor or rich, we can also be haughty or self-sufficient. Whatever we have, what are we doing with it? Have we earned it honestly by doing our jobs diligently? Do we manage all we've been given well and judiciously? Even lottery winners go broke, if they don't manager their winnings.

#### **Bottom line:**

Everything is from God, including money, because he's the giver of all good things (Js 1:17). When God blesses us, he expects us to share them with others (3 Jn 1:2). We must also remember that our lives are not in our possessions (Lk 12:15; Psa 4:6-8).

RCCG Bethel Parish

The pillar of truth, defining the future today