

*** 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).

VERSE(S) OF THE DAY

Therefore, I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks be made for all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

1 Timothy 2:1-2 (NLT)

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.

Let every soul be subject
to the Higher Powers.



For there is no power but of God
The powers that be are ordained of God.

Romans 13:1

Image source(s): <https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Authority>



Sunday 7 May 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

Limeharbour, London E14 9TS

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Our 'must-visit' website



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

How do we honour leaders we disagree with?

Text: Romans 13:1-7

The first commandment with a blessing is to honour our parents and the penalty for breaking that law is quite strict. Moses took the commandment further to say a stubborn and rebellious child should be stoned to death by the community (Deut 21:18-21). This stems from the common practice to exercise strict and immediate punishment in times past. Why is there a difference today?

God gave us the law as a foreshadow of what's to come, when everything is revealed in Christ. When he called Israel, he promised them an earthly kingdom, with him as their God and ruler. That's theocracy, where the prophets, priests and kings represent God on earth. Today, the church and state are separate and we're no longer in a theocracy. That may be why Jesus said his kingdom is not in this world (Jn 18:36).

But we practice a form of theocracy still. We want to be a part of the earthly kingdom, but sometimes exercise theocratic rule or rights. Civic responsibilities owed to the government and society's different from what we owe God. We don't have to be born again either, to be useful in God's kingdom. Cyrus is an example of that.

Our text today instructs that all authorities are instituted by God and rebellion against them is a rebellion against God. Apostles Paul and Peter also repeated the same charges in a variety of forms (Tit 3:1-2; 1 Pet 2:13-14). However, there's a place for civil disobedience and one of the lines we should draw in the sand is when we're being asked to disobey God (Acts 4:16-20).

No human being is infallible and that includes those who we call men of God. God is the ultimate authority and the only one whose authority is unimpeachable. That's why Paul added a proviso to his command for people to follow him (1 Cor 11:1). However, when our leaders' directives are in line with God, scriptures tell us we must obey (Rom 13:1). These days we practice selective disobedience, even in the church. Cult of individuality or personalities are quite common in churches. We need to avoid falling foul of that.

When we engage in civil disobedience, it should be for a valid reason and not to inconvenience others. As Christians, we only have one ultimate authority and that's God's (Acts 17:5-7). Therefore, our allegiance must be to him (Heb 13:10-17). Abraham lived in tents because he was looking forward to God's promise. We can't hold tightly to this world such that we forget our home's in heaven and the earth is our temporary home (Heb 11:9).

Bottom line:

To whom do we owe our allegiance? Peter told us to submit to all human authority for the Lord's sake (1 Pet 2:13; Col 3:23-24) and Paul added that when we do, it's for our own sake too (1 Tim 2:2). When we honour those God put in authority over us even when we disagree with them, we honour God (Heb 13:17).

RCCG Bethel Parish

The pillar of truth, defining the future today