

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

You adulteresses [disloyal sinners—flirting with the world and breaking your vow to God]! Do you not know that being the world's friend [that is, loving the things of the world] is being God's enemy? So whoever chooses to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

James 4:4 (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.

James 4:4

Friendship with the world is enmity against God.

And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

1 John 2:17

Image source(s): <https://www.space.com/17638-how-big-is-earth.html> //



Sunday 9 July 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

PHONE: 07889906677 || EMAIL:

admin@rccgbethel.church

WEB: www.rccgbethel.church

Our 'must-visit' website



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THIS IS RCCG BETHEL PARISH, DUE TO THE CURRENT EPIDEMIC. SERVICES WILL REMAIN ONLINE TILL FURTHER NOTICE

[READ FULL CONTENT](#)

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 drivers of life

Text: 1 John 2:15-17

Last week, we talked about growth, understanding God wants us to keep growing, both outwardly and inwardly. This determines our capabilities. We're told today not to love the world and the things in it, because it's fading away. Typically, we're taught the world will outlive us since we're all going to die. While that's true and the world will eventually be destroyed, this verse suggests we'll outlive the world and we're indestructible.

Do not love the world. Does that mean everything, including all those gadgets we love so much? How about possessions? Perhaps it's in response to verses like this that some shun wealth and make vows of poverty in preference for monastic living. We often yearn for promotions for the wrong reasons; not because we're in lack or because we want to help others, but because we want more "things".

Jesus made it clear to his disciples that even food can be relative and doing the will of God can be more fulfilling (Jn 4:31-34; Matt 4:4; Jn 6:31-32). This world is a mere shadow and it is fading. What does it mean to love the world? Loving someone else places a direct demand on our priorities and affects the things we do. Some have described it as having butterflies in their stomach and the desire to want to be around or connect with them. When they're not with us, we yearn to see them and feel like we can't live without them.

Imagine the same strong passion or craving for the things of this world. That's what today's text implies. The world can only offer us strong desires or cravings for physical pleasures. When our wants become our need, we're in danger of loving the things of this world rather than God, because God knows what we need and have promised to supply it before we ask (Matt 6:8; Phil 4:19). Jesus told us (Matt 6:8). The Shunammite woman thought she wanted for nothing, but it turned out she had a need Elisha could fulfill (2 Kgs 4:8-37).

Jesus told Peter he will deny him. He did and Peter became despondent (Lk 22:31-34; 54-62). Jesus already gave him a commission (Matt 16:18). But in his disappointment, he gave up and abandoned his mission until Jesus gave him the permission to dream again, reminding him of his assignment (Jn 21:1-3; 15-17).

Today, we can lay aside whatever may've gone before, knowing our true needs will be fulfilled by God who knows what they are. Someone said **"Real success is not having things, but in having mastery and victory over self."** Amassing things can never give us fulfilment. The greatest tragedy is when we struggle to acquire so much, while losing the only thing we can keep (Mk 8:36-38). Gaining Christ is what lasts forever (Phil 3:8-12).

Bottom line:

We can survive the loss of worldly things, remembering they're all passing away. The loss of our soul can be fatal, if we don't stop chasing things and seek that which endures.

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