

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

Peace I leave with you; My [perfect] peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be afraid. [Let My perfect peace calm you in every circumstance and give you courage and strength for every challenge.]

John 14:27 (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.



World's Peace

1. Dependent on feelings
2. Must be seen
3. Does not allow for troubles
4. Feels must manage situation
5. Tries to control
6. Ultimately fails

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God's Peace

1. Dependent on trust
2. No need to be seen
3. Allows for troubles
4. Need not manage situation
5. Trust God to control
6. Always endures



Sunday 23 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

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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 CONTINUING](#)

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 (continued)

Text: 1 John 2:15-17

The last time in our study of 1 John, we concluded that cravings for the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life—which are things of the world—shouldn't be the drivers of our life because they didn't come from the father. Then we itemised four things the father gave us: Holy Spirit, peace, understanding and insight, as well as his precious promises. And last week, we're encouraged to have an intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit.

Often, we think of peace in pacifist sense, not as a driver for life. The peace God gives us cannot be found in the world (Jn 14:27). It's the mental and emotional calm that gives freedom from disturbance and interference, where there's no war or strife. To understand, we need to deconstruct our minds because the peace offered by the world comes with a cost that may be too steep to be worthwhile. Jesus promised us peace as a gift.

In a boat, exposed to the elements, a storm's the last thing a sailor wants. The disciples were in serious danger, but in the midst of all the chaos, panic and screaming Jesus had peace and was asleep (Mk 4:35-39). Dumbfounded, they woke him up and he rebuked the wind, saying, "**Peace, be still**" (Mk 4:39). In the logical scheme of things, you wait for the storm to pass before you find peace, but Jesus calmed the storm. Life's stress and circumstances are no disturbance. No wonder he's called the **Prince of peace** (Isa 9:6).

Peace is not just what we get, it is what we possess within us and can give to others, because we're carriers too (Lk 10:5-6). In fact, the white dove, which is the universal symbol for the Holy Spirit is also used to denote peace. Peace is also a shield from the emotions that try to cripple us e.g. doubt, fear etc (Phil 4:6-7). It is also a weapon (Eph 6:10-17). The Gospel is described as the Gospel of peace. That's why Jesus told his disciples to offer peace to those they speak to. It never ends and is not truncated (Isa 9:6-7). It is also perfect and cannot be improved upon (Isa 26:3).

In David's life, we can see an example of peace of God at work in one of the many wars he waged (1 Sam 17:24-26). Goliath's never lost a battle and was confident of defeating any opponent Israel could offer (1 Sam 17:8-9). So, the Israelite army fled and called him a giant. David called him a Philistine who "**defy the armies of the living God**" (1 Sam 17:22-26). For David, it was an opportunity for God to be glorified. When we have challenges, do we see them as problems or opportunities for God to be glorified (Jn 9:3).

There's always a third option beyond fight or flight response. What's inside us can overcome all things (Jn 16:33). Once we understand, problems will no longer be something to fear, but opportunities to learn more about God. Like Paul, we must learn to wait and see what God will do in our situations (Acts 21:11-13). Think about the fact that God placed a prisoner like Paul into the house of Caesar in Rome to conquer it (Acts 28:11-31).

Bottom line:

How do you see the obstacles in your path? As giants or Philistines, defying God? David knew he had what it takes to face Goliath because he had God (Jn 14:27 AMP). Do you?

RCCG Bethel Parish

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