

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 are My witnesses," says the Lord, "and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe me, and understand that I am he. Before me there was no God formed, nor shall there be after me.

Isaiah 43:10 (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.

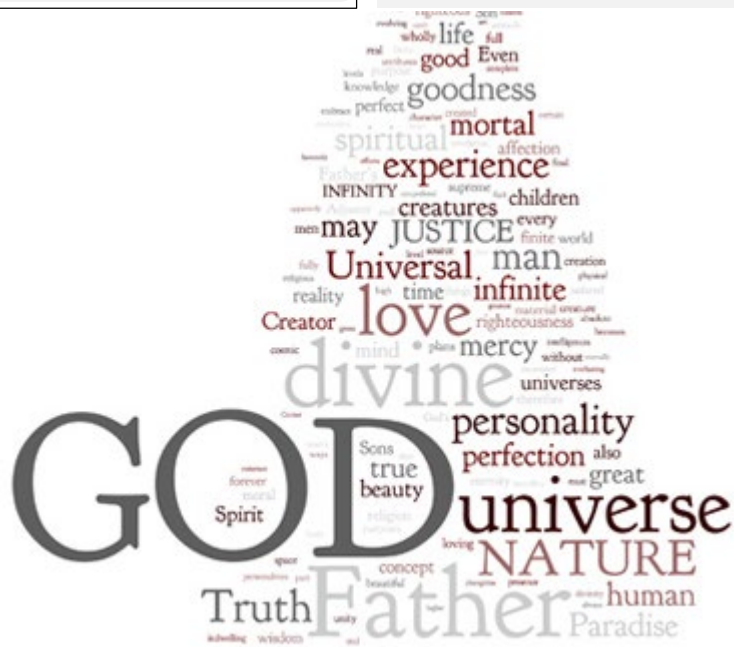


Image source(s): <https://truthbook.com/urantia-book/paper-2-the-nature-of-god/>



Sunday 20 August 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 FOLLOWING 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

Understanding his essential nature

Text: 1 John 2:15-17 / Romans 1:19-20

We will continue exploring the gifts that the father gives and last week, we looked into insight and understanding in relation to understanding the word of God. The scriptures say we've been given the wisdom to understand (Matt 13:11). We may assume that means everyone, but we learnt we can only understand by grace. Today, we will determine how and why we need to understand his essential nature.

Many will say there's no God and often they can't come up with a tangible reason. We may wonder about that too, but the scriptures make it clear only God can reveal the truth to us (Rom 1:19-20). That includes Christians. By our words or actions, we prove we don't know who he is and deny him over and over (Lk 22:54-62), then we blame him for the consequences of our choices. There's an assumption in the scriptures that we know him (1 Jn 5:20) and that knowing him is the essence of eternal life (Jn 17:3).

This implies that eternal life is not in the future, but a knowledge and we can possess it right now if we know God. Some of the things we should know about God include the common perception that he's spirit (Jn 4:24). Therefore, it takes a spiritual being to comprehend his nature. God is personal too (Mal 2:10). His relationship with us depends on us and the story of the prodigal son is an example (Lk 15:11-24).

We can see marked differences between the relationships of each of the two sons with their father. The prodigal son knows the nature of his father and was able to return home because of that (Lk 15:17-19). In the same way, what we get from our relationship with God depends on how we cultivate that relationship and what we know of his nature (Lk 13:23-24; Phil 2:12). Like an all-you-can-eat buffet, only our appetite and desires can limit us.

God is also infinite in his perfection (Ex 15:11; Psa 147:5). Job knew God's essential nature, but his friends were convinced Job must have done something to deserve what befell him and / or he should just take the punishment without complaints. They emphasised this again and again (Job 5:17-27). However, God said they didn't speak for him (Job 42:7-8).

Jonah didn't speak for God either when he declared judgement on Nineveh (Jon 3:4). He knew God's essential nature (Jon 4:1-3) and therefore failed to give the warning message God sent through him (Jon 1:1-2). However, Nineveh figured out that God had no intention to destroy them (2 Pet 3:9) and that it is God's nature to forgive. Like a soiled child running to his / her parent, when we stretch out our hands to God even in our filthy state, he's always ready to embrace us (Isa 1:18).

Bottom line:

Like the prodigal son, the devil often tricks us to beg or pay for what's already given to us. It is therefore crucial that we know the essential nature of God (e.g. Matthew 7:11).

RCCG Bethel Parish

Pillar of truth ... defining the future today