

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

Cry out for insight, and ask for understanding. Search for them as you would for silver; seek them like hidden treasures. Then you will understand what it means to fear the Lord, and you will gain knowledge of God.

Proverbs 2:3-5 (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.

Then He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you, everything which has been written about Me in the Law of Moses and the [writings of the] Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

Then He opened their minds to [help them] understand the Scriptures.

~ ~ ~
Luke 24:44-45 (AMP)

Image source(s): <https://www.stpauls-medina.org/2012/04/have-you-anthine-hear-to-eat-sermon-for-easter-3/jesus-with-11-apostles-then-he-opened-their-minds-to-understand-the-scriptures/>



Sunday 13 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

[PLEASE FOLLOW THIS 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

The drivers of life: Insight / understanding

Text: 1 John 2:15-17

We've been exploring what God gives us that the world cannot give (1 Jn 2:16), talking about the Holy Spirit and peace. We also addressed insight / understanding in terms of our relationship with each other and God. Today, we will delve into other aspects of the gift of insight / understanding in more details.

Again and again, the disciples found it difficult to understand what Jesus was saying and on one occasion, they asked him why he speaks in parables. His response that they've been given the privilege of knowing the "**mysteries of the kingdom of God**" may've been even more confusing to them (Lk 8:10) and we may wonder too.

Why did Jesus feel the need to speak in parables, knowing it makes what he's saying more complicated (Matt 13:10-11)? We may understand some of these things now and what they mean because we have the interpretations. We also have the privilege of teachings, concordances and expositions, but at the time, they could only ask Jesus to explain himself and he spent a lot of time doing just that.

The scriptures made it clear that even when we do understand, it's because the Holy Spirit reveals them to us (1 Jn 2:3; 20 AMP). When we're in Christ, the Holy Spirit checks our spirit when we hear something that's false, prompting us to double-check them. John said this is because the anointing of the Holy Spirit guides us into all truth, emphasising we need to remain in Christ for that to always be the case (1 Jn 2:27).

We need understanding and insight in four key areas. They include (1) understanding the word of God, (2) understanding his essential nature, (3) understanding his kingdom and (4) understanding him by revelation knowledge. Every now and again, God engineers some strategic encounters in order to perform miraculous works or change our lives. Such is the case with an Ethiopian when he encountered Philip (Acts 8:27-31). He was reading about the crucifixion of Jesus, but needed someone to explain what it was about (Acts 8:32).

Many Jews, Scribes and Pharisees in Jesus's day have probably read the scriptures several times over from cover to cover and yet, they couldn't understand when Jesus told them the scriptures spoke about him (Jn 5:39-40; Matt 22:45). Thus, when we understand many of these scriptures today, it is because the Holy Spirit explained them. Studying alone cannot give us clarity. That's why people were often astonished when Jesus spoke (Matt 7:28-29).

For example, how can we understand why our light afflictions are only for a moment or comprehend what eyes have not seen or ears heard; all the things God has prepared for those that love him (2 Cor 4:17-18; 1 Cor 2:9)? We can't, unless we have understanding. When Paul wrote about afflictions, we weren't there and can never say for sure why he wrote those words. Experiences, motives and intentions behind prophecies and utterances can only be understood when the Holy Spirit exposes them to us (Matt 13:11).

Bottom line:

When studying the word of God, study to understand what God is telling you. Don't take that for granted or treat it like another novel or a historical account (2 Tim 2:15).

RCCG Bethel Parish

Pillar of truth ... defining the future today