

\*\*\* 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

Then he said to them, "You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean.

*Acts 10:28 (NKJV)*

## THEME FOR THE YEAR

### To be all in

**Hebrews 10:38-39 (AMP)**

Peter replied to him, "Lord, if it is [really] you, command me to come to you on the water." ~ **Matthew 14:28 (AMP)**

## 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.

"We need to remember that tolerance is not a Christian virtue, and it is never an end in itself. In fact, tolerating grave evil within a society is itself a form of evil."

— Archbishop  
Charles J. Chaput

Image source(s):  
<https://twitter.com/wrathofanon/status/786431544067919873>

Sunday 3 March 2024  
**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

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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

### *Christianity and religious tolerance*

#### *Text: Romans 12:18-19*

There's a noticeable difference in approaches to tolerance between the OT and NT. Before Jesus began his ministry, tolerance was inhibited or cautioned against, primarily to prevent enticement into corrupt practices and sin (Dt 13:11). For example, God told the Israelites not to intermarry with other nations and punished Saul for not totally destroying the Amalekites as he commanded (1 Sa 15:1-3; 10-11a).

That's not to say tolerance isn't in practice. In Proverbs 16:24 for example, we're told the right words can actually be healing to both the body and the soul and encouraged again and again to leave the fighting and judgements to God (Ex 14:13-14; 22:21; Dt 1:16-17). However, if there's one thing that stands out during Jesus's ministry, it's the departure from pronouncements of judgement and damnation. Instead, Jesus challenged the practices of religious leaders of his day and outlined a "new way".

He did things on Sabbath day and mixed with sinners frequently (Mt 9:10-11; Mk 2:15-16; 24-27). Strict adherence to rigid rules and religiousness took a backseat to compassion and tolerance. That earned him lots of criticisms. They found that jarring and I think we do too, at times. In the sermon on the mount, we could say Jesus outlined the manifesto for his ministry. He began with the beatitudes and challenged us to move beyond the law and the Prophets. He told us to be salt and light to the world until we attain perfection. Just like our heavenly father, we're asked to turn the other cheek when slapped, go an extra mile to help others and even love our enemies. We're also cautioned against judging others (Mt 5:38-48; 7:1-3).

Peter continued to struggle too, until he was confronted in a vision (Ac 10:9-23). The bottom line is we now live in a dispensation where tolerance should be a key hallmark of our walk with God and our fellowship with each other. That's why Paul told the Romans to live in peace with each other and leave judgement to God (Rm 12:18-19). However, the fact is the danger of enticement by association remains an issue for us. It cannot be overlooked or ignored as we see in 2 John 1:7-11.

Paul agree, charging us to separate ourselves from all appearance of evil (1 Th 5:22). So, can we afford to tolerating sin / sinners, if only for our self-preservation? How can we be tolerant if we're to address glaring instances of evil? In his letter to the Romans Paul knew there may be times tolerance isn't the answer (Rm 12:18-19; in context Rm 12:9-21).

When we see injustice or evil in our communities, we should do our bit in terms of outreach, speaking out against them or going even further. Peter asked us to be ready to defend our faith when necessary (1 Pt 3:15-16). As far as sin or sinners are concerned, Jude suggested mercy and caution, hating the sin and not the sinner (Jude 1:22-23 NLT). We can also pray for God to intervene (1 Th 5:16; 2 Ch 7:14). God is always seeking people to stand in the gap and opportunities to redeem (Ez 22:30) and Paul assured us God is able to keep us blameless until Jesus comes (1 Th 5:24-25)

#### **Bottom line:**

Two things can be true at the same time. We can be mindful of maintaining our faith while ensuring we're tolerant and kind to others, whatever our views about their practices. We can never go wrong when we imitate Jesus Christ (Ro 8:29; 1 Co 11:1).

# *RCCG Bethel Parish*

*The pillar of truth, defining the future today*