

*** 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

Casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

2 Corinthians 10:5-6 (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.



Sunday 4 August 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

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The Word of God is like a **LION.**

You don't have to defend a lion.

All you have to do is **LET THE LION LOOSE** and the lion will defend itself.

🐾 *Charles Spurgeon*

Our 'must-visit' website



[Home](#) [Our Focus](#) [About us](#) [Contact Us](#) [Sermons](#) [Privacy Policy](#)



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

How should we defend our faith?

Text: 1 Peter 3:13-16

Defending our faith is a worthy cause (Pro 25:26; Psa 119:41-42). For David, it's God's love and his trust in God's word that gives him the strength to stand up to taunts (Psa 119:41-42). But how do we pick and choose what we protest? What if they're hidden or unknown or we're unable to do anything (Gen 18:16-21)? Abraham's nephew Lot and his family lived in Sodom and Gomorrah. Although Peter later said Lot was righteous (2 Pet 2:7), it is unclear if they were both privy to everything God saw or heard.

Defending the faith is also different from defending our own faith. In the first instance, we're standing as ambassadors for God (2 Cor 5:20a). In the second, we're testifying about our convictions. Are we making apologies for our hurt feelings or God's? In either case, it should be in line with God's will. That determines what we do.

Peter gave us some helpful pointers in 1 Peter 3:15-16, telling us when, how and why we should be ready, in response to questions asked of us. It is specific and personal. As for defending the faith and safeguarding what's important to our Father, Jesus showed us how when the Jews put him on trial and laid ridiculous charges against him. Some stemmed from their ignorance of what he said. Others were outright falsehood. In fact, it took them a while to find witnesses willing to come forward and they could only come with conflicting testimonies (Matt 26:59-60; 27:1-2; 11-13; Mk 14:59).

For the most part, Jesus endured and didn't try to defend himself. Why? Because it wasn't about him. It was about the kingdom of God and completing the task (Jn 18:10-11; see also Matt 21:12-17). Most of his ire and disgust was reserved for the religious leaders of his day who he considered hypocrites and barriers to the kingdom of God (Lk 11:37-52; 20:45-47; Matt 23:1-36; 12:3-8).

Paul gave us another example, rebuking the demon spirit in a young girl with a divination spirit who followed them for days and became a distraction (Acts 16:16-34). Jesus was put on sham trial and crucified. Paul and Silas went to prison. Both were happy to advance the kingdom of God. Jesus also told us not to judge our fellow men and their deeds (Matt 7:1-3) and Peter encouraged us to respect the authority of human institutions (1 Pet 2:13-17).

We can be outraged, but our responses should be considered and constructive. Will it advance the kingdom of God? Will those who attack us come to appreciate the error of their ways (1 Pet 3:13-14; 16; Js 1:19-20). A life aligned with God's will, that reflects his love, grace and mercy, and is modelled on the life of our Lord Jesus Christ will often prompt questions from people around us. Like Abraham, we can also intercede (Gen 18:22-33). Arguments often put more people off than they save.

Bottom line:

Our faith should and must be defended, but only in so far as it advances the kingdom of God and good news for mankind. Let's borrow from the Hippocratic oath and first do no harm.

RCCG Bethel Parish

The pillar of truth, defining the future today