

2016 Theme Verse: "So let us Know; let us press on to Know the LORD..." Hosea 6:3

Welcome to the Grace Brethren Church of Norwalk

April 24, 2016

Services Today at Grace —

Sunday School: 9:30am

Class: 3 - 5 yrs. old (Kinder.)
Teacher: Caroll Ann Perkins

Class: 1st - 3rd grade (KIDMO)
Teacher: Lisa Patton

Class: 4th - 6th grade (5A)
Teacher: Robin Predmore

Class: DRIVEN (Jr. & Sr. High)
Teacher: Timothy Lansing

Class: Adults (6B)
Teacher: Dave Goodwyn

Class: Adults (Conf. Rm.)
Teacher: Ron Muir

Class: Depression: Looking Up from the Stubborn Darkness - Pastor Jeff's office

Praise & Worship Service: 10:45am

Children's Church for 3-5 years old & K-3rd grade after opening

1st Quarter Business Meeting: 12:15pm (6B)

Those Serving Today at Grace —

Ushers for the month of April:

Richard Hurtado-Lead, Eddie Morales, Kyle Predmore, Ron Muir

Nursery — Today 4/24

9:15am Jessica Yrineo
Judy Torres

10:30am Janine Lansing
Tracy Lansing

Nursery — Next Week 5/1

9:15am Patty Morales
Jennifer Gonzalez

10:30am Dee Muir
Susan Klements

Happy Birthday —

Carlos Cabrera April 28

Kristina Wilson April 29

Events This Week —

LAST CEF Bible Club – New River Tues., 2:30pm
FAMILY NIGHT: ABS, DRIVEN & ROCK Wed., 6:45pm
LAST CEF Bible Club – D.D.Johnston Thurs., 2:45pm
Ladies' Psalms Study Fri., 10:00am
Church Work Day Sat., 8:00-11:00am
CEF End of the Year Celebration Sat., 11:00am-1:00pm

Events Next Month —

Women of Grace (6B) Tues., 5/10, 6:00pm
Church Work Day Sat., 5/14, 8:00am
Fellowship Commission Meeting Sun., 5/15, 1:00pm
Ladies' Discipleship Mon., 5/16, 7:00pm
Elders' Meeting Tues., 5/17, 7:00pm
Prayer Table Sat., 5/21, 8:00am
District Women of Grace Planning Mtg. Sat., 5/21, 9:00am
Church Work Day Sat., 5/28, 8:00am

For The Record —

Attendance Last Week:

Sunday School: 61, Worship Service: 113

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Urban Hope Training Center

210 E. Tioga St., Philadelphia, PA 19134

Please check out the new prayer letters from the Pattons & O'Dells. Copies can be found on the missionary table or online. Please pray.

Church Announcements

CEF END OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION is this **Saturday, April 30 from 11am-1pm out on the lawn.** Everyone is invited to come and join us as we celebrate with all the students who attended our CEF Bible clubs at DDJohnston Elementary and New River Elementary. There will be a pizza party, ice cream, awards, a jumper, and an exciting story. Please plan to attend to be a witness to the students and their parents. If you have any questions, please see Pauline, Judy or Lisa. This event is sponsored by our Missions Commission. **ALL WORKERS, PLEASE SEE YOUR MAIL FOLDER FOR YOUR JOBS☺ FOR THAT DAY.** **Please arrive by 10am to set up for this great event!**

SAVE THE DATE for VBS 2016: The Ocean Commotion Vacation Bible School starts Sunday, June 26th and every Sunday through July 24th. Please see Laura Kimsey for volunteer opportunities for VBS. **URGENT NEED:** Children's Ministry is in need of a teacher for Jr. Church and 2-3 helpers for The Rock. Please see Laura if you are interested in serving.

DISTRICT WOMEN OF GRACE PLANNING MTG.: It's final! The meeting is set for Saturday, May 21st at 9am at the Long Beach GBC. All of our ladies are invited to attend to give their input for the future of this important ministry to women, so please attend.☺

NEW ADDRESS: Willie & Marlene Chambers would like to say, "Hi" to everyone and let them know that Willie is now cancer free. Their new address is: 7255 Spinmaker Dr., Perris, CA 92571, mailing address: P.O. Box 1021, Perris, CA 92572; phone number: (951)241-4580.

Growing Up!

Upcoming Training Opportunities

Shepherding A Child's Heart Parenting Conference

Best-selling author and Christian parenting expert Ted Tripp presents critical training for parents on how to raise godly children. May 6-7, beginning at 6pm Friday night at Sunrise Church in Rialto, 2759 Ayala Drive. The unbelievable cost is \$25 for single parents, \$35 for couples. Childcare is available for \$5 per household. Pastor Jeff wholeheartedly endorses this training. Register online at Sunrise Church Rialto.

Work & Witness Conference

"Using Your Vocation for Gospel Impact"

Saturday, May 21, 8am – 4:30pm,
Grace Community Church, 13248 Roscoe Blvd, Sun Valley
5 Keynote speakers with 100 years work experience!
\$60, Register online at The Masters Academy International

Disordered Desires

"Bringing Grace to Modern Sexuality"

Love. Marriage. Sex. These longings and connections are at the core of who we are as human beings. Often charged with emotion, heartache, and pain – sexuality helps shape the drama of our lives. Some of us want to be married, but remain alone. Some of us are married and deeply unhappy. Some of us can't escape the grip of pornography. Some of us wrestle with same-sex attraction. Many of us feel that our sexuality is a burden rather than a blessing. All of us need grace!

Sponsored by the Institute for Biblical Counseling & Discipleship,
June 23-25, Mission Hills Church,
San Marcos, CA. \$175 or \$25 day passes.
\$25 discount for groups of 6 or more.

Conference Workshops Include: "Sexual Identity and the Bible," "Truths Same Sex-Attracted Christians Need to Hear," "Waiting: The Song of Songs on Singleness," "Friendship on Fire: The Song of Songs on Marriage," "How Grace Empowers Us to Overcome Sexual Idolatry," and "The Flesh, the Spirit, and Our Desires."

Thursday, June 23, **Ladies Only Pre-conference** with Martha Peace, Caroline Newheiser, and Elyse Fitzpatrick entitled "Longings." [Ladies, Martha is the author of [The Excellent Wife](#); if you are interested in going, see Lisa.]

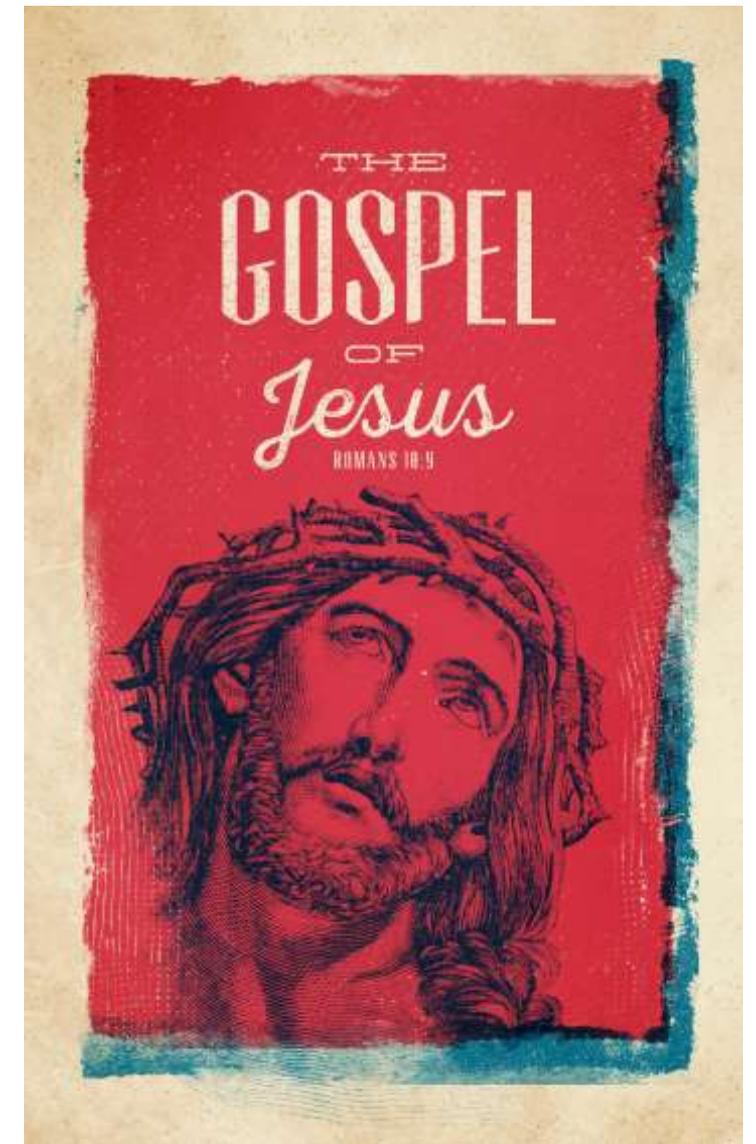
Register online at IBCD.org or at Mission Hills Church San Marcos.

"Addiction"

New Ways of Seeing and Walking Free

Part 12

"The unfolding of Your words gives life; it gives understanding to the simple." (Psalm 119:130) Would it sound strange if I mentioned Satan in connection with addiction? Usually, it only sounds odd to someone who has never experienced the true bondage of addiction. There are many sins in which Satan's lordship is hidden – the subtle lies of polite conversations, fudging on the truth "just a little." Though we cannot blame Satan for our sin, it isn't hard to detect his oversight when it comes to addictions. The bondage, lies, and accusations are blatant. The Kingdom of God that Jesus inaugurated overpowers the kingdom of Satan. At one time, all people were easy prey, susceptible to Satan's devices. But now "the prince of this world" stands condemned before Christ (John 16:11). He cannot dominate Christ or those who have His Spirit. Scripture warns us to be alert to Satan, stressing that we can "be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power" and we can "stand against the devil's schemes" (Ephesians 6:10-11). We can "resist him by standing firm in The Faith" (1 Peter 5:9). Even more than that, if we properly resist him, he will flee from us (James 4:7). **This changes the way we do battle.** Instead of assuming that the battle will be lost, instead of just trying to last long enough to slow the inevitable onslaught of the enemy, in Christ we have been promised victory. We are given all the resources of Jesus Christ in our fight. The battle is waged with the passion of an army that knows the momentum has shifted. The fighting may be fierce, but those who know they can and will win can fight with abandon. Satan tries to accuse us, suggesting that with every single slip we make, we are condemned. His goal is to take us out of the battle, incapacitated by despair. Like an enemy using false propaganda to demoralize its foe, Satan will tell us that we have been abandoned by the commanding Officer. Addicts are easy prey for such accusations and lies, and need to be encouraged and reminded of the victory in Jesus. Yes, there is pride, arrogance, and an unwillingness to hear counsel among addicts, but "high-handed" pride is not the only feature of addiction. There is also a sense of hopelessness and uselessness. Addicts feel like they are getting what they deserve. Of course, even this despair can be used as an excuse for continuing their addictions, but it is also what they genuinely feel. Every addict lives with the experience of inner condemnation. Change will not take place under a load of guilt and condemnation, so Scripture invites us to the grace that comes from God through faith in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8). GRACE communicates two important truths. First and most importantly, it reveals the character of God. God delights in showing grace to those who turn to Him. God is One who surprises us in His eagerness to show grace. Secondly, grace says something about us. It says that we can't pay God back for our sins against Him. Contrary to what many think, when we see our sin clearly as the rebellion against God that Scripture says it is, it actually leads to greater joy (Luke 7:41-42). To receive Grace from God is to acknowledge that we do not have righteousness without ourselves. The human instinct is to choose to be miserable and full of self-loathing as a way to do "penance" before God. This is typical of many addictive cycles. The world avoids any discussion of sin because it does not know the astounding grace of God. We can admit sin, and find hope and help for addiction, because we confess faith in the grace of God through Jesus Christ.



Grace Brethren Church of Norwalk

11005 Foster Rd.

Norwalk, CA 90650

(562) 863-7322

www.GraceLive.com

info@gracelive.com