

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

March 13, 2016

### Services Today at Grace —

#### Sunday School: 9:30am

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

**Class:** 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade (KIDMO)  
**Teacher:** Lisa Patton

**Class:** 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> 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:** Young Adults  
**Teacher:** Vet Gonzalez

#### Praise & Worship Service: 10:45am

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

### Those Serving Today at Grace —

#### Ushers for the month of March:

Rob Kimsey - Lead, Victor Pearce, Tom Bickenbach, Vet Gonzalez

#### Nursery — Today 3/13

**9:15am** Josie Ramirez  
Stephanie Jones  
**10:30am** Dee Muir  
Roxy Barragan

#### Nursery — Next Week 3/20

**9:15am** Jessica Yrineo  
Judy Torres  
**10:30am** Janine Lansing  
Tracy Lansing

### Happy Birthday —

Leticia Posada	March 13
Jacob Yrineo	March 15
Glenna Bowlin	March 16
Jonathan Schlatter	March 16
Ruth Hurtado	March 18
Benjamin Perea	March 18
Robert Kimsey	March 19

### Events This Week —

Ladies' Discipleship (Patton home)	Mon., 7:00pm
NO CEF CLUBS – PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES	
Elders' Meeting (Patton home)	Tues, 7:00pm
FAMILY NIGHT: ABS, DRIVEN & ROCK	Wed., 6:45pm
Ladies' Psalms Study	Fri., 10:00am
Heights of Grace Outreach	Sat., 11:00am

### Events This Month —

COMMUNION SERVICE	Sun., 3/20, 12:15pm
Church Work Day	Sat., 3/26, 8:00am
Prayer Table	Sat., 3/26, 8:00am
<b>EASTER – Sunrise Service &amp; Breakfast, Sun., 3/27, 6:30a &amp; 7:30a</b>	
<b>Egg Hunt at 8:30a; Easter Celebration Service at 9:00a – Sanctuary</b>	
NO WEDNESDAY SERVICES – MARCH 30 <sup>TH</sup>	

### For The Record —

#### Attendance Last Week:

Sunday School: 62, Worship Service: 104

## Church Announcements

**HEIGHTS OF GRACE:** Our next outreach to Boyle Heights will be this Sat., March 19<sup>th</sup>. Please meet at the church at 11:00am for a brief meeting before we head out to Boyle Heights. If you have any questions, please see Vet or Jen Gonzalez.

**READING GROUP:** Pastor Jeff is looking for others to join him in reading a book: Depression: Looking Up from the Stubborn Darkness by Edward T. Welch. Join us in reading this easy-to-understand, biblically-based book. Please order your own book on-line at [Christianbook.com](http://Christianbook.com).

**THANK YOUs:** *Dear Church Family, I want to thank you for your prayers on my behalf. You have also blessed me with meals, cookies and flowers; God bless you for your thoughtfulness. You are in my prayers, Beverly Adams*

*Dear Grace Brethren Family, We are filled with immense gratitude and appreciation for our thoughtful and extremely generous baby shower. Everything was done beautifully and it completely blew us away. It is a tremendous blessing to have such an amazing church family encouraging us in our new journey.*

*We Love You All, the Kamron Jones Family*

**ADDRESS:** Sebastian Bosi, Urban Hope Training Center & Community Church, 210 E. Tioga St., Philadelphia, PA 19134 (shipping address): 209 E. Tioga St., Philadelphia, PA 19134.

Please remember to pray for Sebastian as he serves his 9-month ministry at Urban Hope. Check out the website at: [urbanhope.net](http://urbanhope.net).

# Join us for Easter Sunday, March 27, 2016.

6:30a.m. – Sunrise Service

7:30a.m. – Breakfast

8:30a.m. – Easter Egg Hunt

9:00a.m. – Easter Celebration



## He Has Risen!

[Palm Sunday Communion, March 20<sup>th</sup>, at 12:15pm]

Note from Pastor:

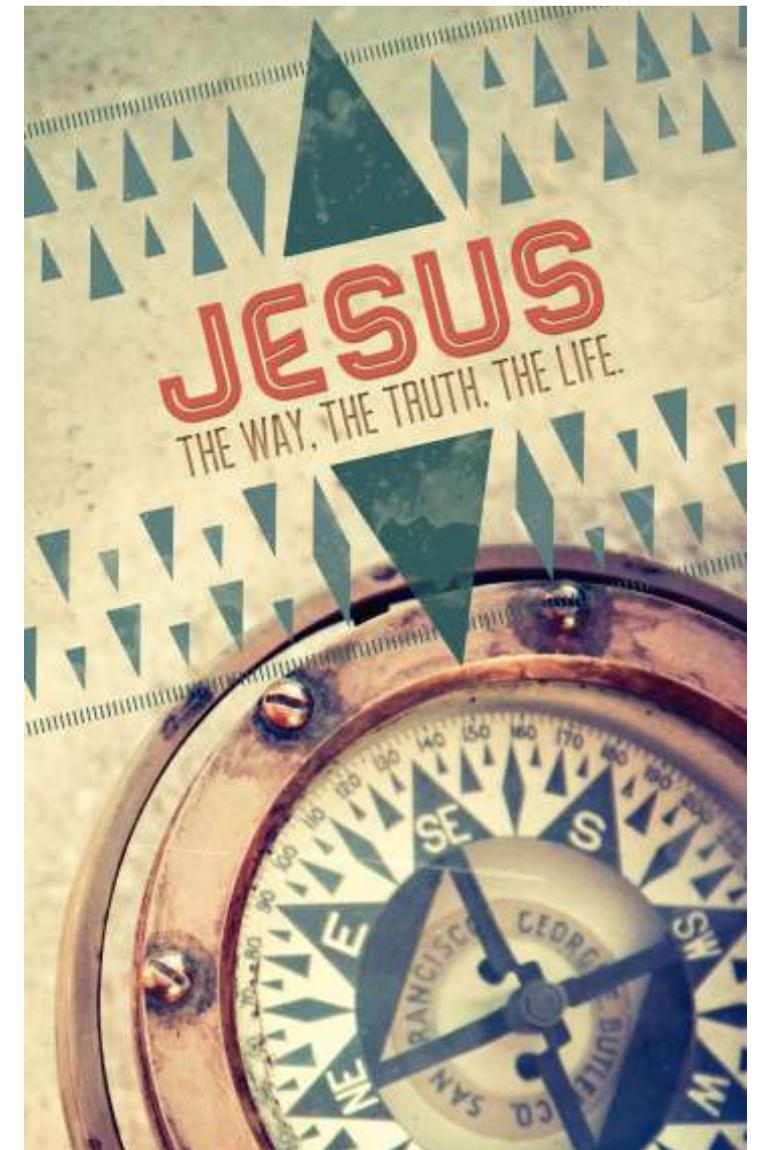
## *“Addiction”*

### *New Ways of Seeing and Walking Free, Part 9*

*“The unfolding of Your words gives life; it gives understanding to the simple.”*

**(Psalm 119:130)** In this series we have highlighted some biblical metaphors for addiction (idolatry, adultery, foolishness, disease/illness, being attacked by wild beasts) to help us understand God’s perspective on the issue. These metaphors have clearly highlighted something: principles for change for addiction are similar to those for any other sin problem. The Apostle Paul uses ***athletic imagery*** to exhort us to fight against those desires that try to control and dominate us. *“Do you know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore, do not run like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.”*

**(1 Cor. 9:24-27)** Paul is not teaching that our bodies are bad and our souls are good. When he talks about his “body,” he is talking about our “appetites,” our desires that dominate us if left unchecked. He is talking about eating, drinking, and sexual desires, not because they are evil activities in and of themselves, but because ***they need to be watched carefully***. Our sinful tendency is to carelessly indulge these desires. The Apostle implores us to have a battle-like, aggressive, rigorous, take-no-prisoners style of life. The Bible calls this quality self-control, alertness, and diligence. If we wish to break free from sins that control and dominate us, we cannot merely push the “cruise control” button of life. We have to draw a line in the sand; purposely, consciously, willfully declare, “I will join the fight! I will go into strict training in order to win!” When our desires start growing into ungodly proportions, we must beat them into submission. The unbelieving world uses the “disease model” to deal with addiction, but I believe this is where that model is weak. The disease model says addiction is disease. The Bible says addiction is LIKE disease, and it is in many ways sin. If we believe addiction is disease then we will not have the will to fight against it; we will not have the motivation to enter the battle against it. When we are doing battle with sin, it requires preparation and a desire to absolutely eradicate sin from our lives. To call my addiction disease is settling for a truce or peaceful coexistence. This approach is merely a thinly veiled commitment to falling back in love with the substance I desire. The “addiction is disease” model creates victims. The “addiction as sin” model creates warriors and fighters! Want to know another fascinating truth about calling addiction sin, not disease? It offers HOPE. Christ came into our world and died for sins. He conquered the power of sin and death; He utterly destroyed both from having any claim over our lives. There is a “cure” for sin and His name is Jesus. Most diseases have no cure. We don’t want to use sin as a club to beat struggling people over the head, but calling our desires, words, and actions sin, actually is a hopeful and helpful thing to do, because we don’t stop there. We go on to share the Good News of help and hope in the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, who breaks all our chains, and sets all the captives free.



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