



HOPE CITY CHURCH

*"Helping people experience the Hope
found in a life-changing relationship with Jesus"*

LOVE | *unconditionally* - **REACH** | *intentionally* - **TEACH** | *transformationally*

SERVE | *relationally* - **SEND** | *courageously*

SUNDAYS IN AUGUST

a teaching series in the book of:

PHILEMON

A LIVING LESSON ON FORGIVENESS

9:00A

[SPANISH]

10:45A

[ENGLISH]

11005 Foster Rd. -Norwalk, CA 90650 - (562) 863-7322

www.GraceLive.com
info@gracelive.com

Today at Grace

August 06, 2023

Worship Service - Spanish (*Rm D101*): **9:00am**

Bible Classes: **9:00am**

Grace Gathering in the Courtyard: **10:15am**

Worship Service - English (*Worship Center*): **10:45am***

Grace Kids Worship (*Rm B105*): **10:45am**

*Grace Students to join the Main Worship Service today

SERMON

Pastor Oscar Chavez

“A Living Lesson on Forgiveness” Pt.1

Philemon

Change of address

David Ward

12801 Rosecrans Ave. Apt. 328

Norwalk, CA 90650

Home phone: 562-864-8886

Cell phone: 562-412-8175

Jessica Yrineo and family would like to thank her Hope City Church family for their love and support during this time. Thank you for all the cards, meals provided, emails, texts and prayers. She is thankful for all the church family support.

Attendance Last Week: In-Person Service: 87

Online views: 46

*2nd quarter giving statements are in the mail folders at the Connect Center.
Please pick yours up!*

THIS WEEK @ GRACE

Ironmen Bible Study (RmC103)	Tue	Aug 08	6:30pm
Gonzalez Small Group (Gonzalez Home)	Tue	Aug 08	7:00pm
Bible Studies (English & Spanish)	Fri	Aug 11	6:30pm
Grace Students & Grace Kids	Fri	Aug 11	6:30pm



Women's Retreat Registration is Open.
Visit our table in the courtyard to get all the details and to sign-up.
\$50 non-refundable deposit to secure your spot.

What does it say?

Paul begins his letter by greeting Philemon, a believer in Colossae.

What does it mean?

The letters of the New Testament typically opened with customary greetings. Although these seem formal and maybe even a little redundant, letter greetings give valuable insight into the nature and contents of what follows. There are two key characteristics of Paul's greeting here that provide some insight into how to interpret the letter. First, Paul identifies himself as "a prisoner for Christ Jesus," a reminder of the cost of following Jesus. Paul's repetition of his imprisonment (Philemon 1:1, 9, 13, 23) is meant to emphasize to Philemon that following Jesus often requires sacrifice. For Philemon, this would look like forgiving and restoring Onesimus. The second characteristic is Paul's address, not just to Philemon, but "the church in your house" (Philemon 1:2). Unlike today, the vast majority of the first-century church met in houses across the Roman empire. Paul addresses the church body to show how God's church would be different from the typical Roman household. In Paul's time, enslaved people could be exploited and harmed, but following Jesus often turns relational dynamics on their heads. In the church, enslaved people were to be treated like brothers and sisters.

How do I respond?

Paul reminds us in his greeting to Philemon that following Jesus will look very different than we might anticipate. Paul's faithfulness to Jesus led to his imprisonment and eventual martyrdom. At any point, he could have chosen to walk away. Still, Paul knew the suffering of this life could not be compared with future glory (Romans 8:18). In the same way, God calls us sometimes to embrace inconvenience, difficulty, and sacrifice to serve Him. For Philemon, this would look like forgiveness and reconciliation towards Onesimus. For Paul, it looked like imprisonment and eventually martyrdom. For both, following Jesus meant denying themselves and taking up the cross of suffering. Like Philemon, you too may be at a crossroads of obedience, between choosing the hard path of following Jesus or the easy path of following your flesh. Pray that God will make you faithful in every season.