

**Bellflower**

Grace Communion International

Worship Services: Saturdays 10:00 a.m.

at The First Christian Church

17003 Clark Avenue

Bellflower, CA 90706-5721

gcibellflower.org

Larry Dietrich, Senior Pastor

# Pastor's

L E N T

*Sharing the Joy of Living in the Grace of Jesus*

MARCH 2015

## What Are You Giving Up for Lent?

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We find ourselves at “that time of year” again when Christians from many denominations observe the forty days leading up to Jesus’ trial, death and resurrection commonly known as “Lent.” And as part of this observance, many feel they need to “deny themselves” of something or another. The idea is to somehow “prove” to God and their fellow humans that they are taking seriously the sacrifice of Jesus, and one way to do that is to deny themselves something – whether it is refraining from some dietary favorite – like meat, or even candy or chewing gum in some cases! Others vow one more time to give up a bad habit – like smoking. This season follows just a few months after the New Year’s resolutions that for the most part are long since forgotten and ignored. But I have an idea for those who really feel the need to “give up” something that they may be hanging onto unnecessarily. Why not make the decision to finally give up hanging on to the aspects of the Old Covenant that they might still be clinging onto? Now that would be a change worth making – not just for the season of “Lent”, but from now on! As the Apostle Paul explained, “I’ll say it again. If you are trying to find favor with God by being circumcised, you must obey every regulation in the whole law of Moses. For if you are trying to make yourselves right with God by keeping the law, you have been cut off from Christ! You have fallen away from God’s grace.” Galatians 5:3-4 (NLT)

So please consider getting rid of any unnecessary “spiritual baggage,” (including Lent) and cling tenaciously to Jesus Christ and the grace He provides because of His sacrifice. *That* would be a decision that makes God happy!

*Larry*