

## **Just Thinking about Grace....Again**

By Bob Young

Grace is elusive. Where can we find it, hold it, turn it over in our hands, examine it to see its many facets? How will we understand the mind of God? Our shared worship times on Sunday focused on grace. We must be grateful for grace. We have to get grace right. If we do not get grace right, it is unlikely that we will get much else right. What did God do? For whom did he do it? What is the gift, how is it extended, how is it accepted?

Grace is a multi-faceted concept. God gives many gifts to many different people; all are evidences of grace. Grace is a part of the nature of God just as is love. God is gracious! That he blesses without favoritism does not mean he blessed unconditionally.

Grace makes up for our shortcomings and deficiencies. We have had a grace that can cover misdeeds but not misunderstandings. We have sought perfection in understanding. We have sought an impossible utopia. God is greater than are we, his ways and understandings beyond us. We will never perfectly know the mind of God. We discern spiritual things with spiritual minds, but we are not God.

I probably misunderstand something in Scripture (do not shout "Amen" too loudly!). You probably misunderstand something in Scripture. I want to understand, I try to understand. I am diligent; I am serious about knowing God's way and will. Grace must have room for my misunderstandings. If I knew where I am in error, I would change. I am receptive, an open vessel. God's saving and sanctifying grace can work in such a person.

When we get grace right, we will be more gracious toward others. That in and of itself is enough reason to try to get grace right! That is one reason we talked about grace yesterday. It made a difference. Afterward, people shared their hearts, asked for prayers, cried about the power of grace to help through difficult days. Sometimes it seems I talk and no one listens, but I know it is not true. When we effectively minister the presence of God to the world we touch, it makes all the difference.