



THE PASTOR'S PEN

Volume 45 No. 17

September 9, 2015

Godly Giving

Abraham had to wait a quarter of a century—25 long years—before the promised son was born. By then he was 100 years old; his wife, Sarah, was 90, yet God superseded the laws of nature to allow the birth of a child to an elderly, barren couple. They named their son Isaac, meaning “Laughter,” because he brought unspeakable joy to them.

After Isaac had grown into young manhood, God commanded Abraham to give an extraordinary offering: “Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about.”

Obediently, Abraham took his boy on that long agonizing trip to the black slopes of Moriah. Though he did not understand God’s purpose, Abraham’s faith was not shaken. He placed his dear son on the altar and raised a knife to plunge into the young man’s heart. At that very moment, God stopped him. The Lord commanded Abraham to sacrifice instead a ram which was caught in a nearby bush.

We wonder: Would the old man have actually offered his own beloved son? The Bible gives us the answer; Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from “death.” Yes, he would have done it, for he was already expecting God to raise his son from the dead.

There in that remarkable situation so many centuries ago, a principle of stewardship was revealed. It is the same principle we discover in the words of Jesus: “Be careful not to do your acts of righteousness before man, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give...do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by man. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full... Do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret will reward you.

Giving is to be a private demonstration of obedience!

**God Bless, Paul
Paul**