

*September 27, 2015*

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**TIME OF REFLECTION**

“If we don’t understand our tools, then there is a danger we will become the tool of our tools. We think of ourselves as Google’s customers, but really we’re its products.”

~Rebecca Goldstein, *Plato at the Googleplex: Why Philosophy Won’t Go Away*

“By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son...”

~Hebrews 11 (NASB)

“Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards.”

“He knew it was God the Almighty who now put him to the test; he knew it was the greatest sacrifice which could be demanded of him; but he knew also that no sacrifice was too great which God demanded—and he drew forth his knife. Who strengthened Abraham’s arm, who supported his right arm that it drooped not powerless? For he who contemplates this scene is unnerved. Who strengthened Abraham’s soul so that his eyes grew not too dim to see either Isaac or the ram? For he who contemplates this scene will be struck with blindness. And yet, it is rare enough that one is unnerved or is struck with blindness, and still more rare that one narrates worthily what there did take place between father and son.”

“Remove form the Christian Religion, as Christendom has done, it’s ability to shock, and Christianity...is altogether destroyed. It then becomes a tiny superficial thing, capable neither of inflicting deep wounds nor of healing them, ...it forgets the qualitative distinction between man and God.”

~Søren Kierkegaard, 19<sup>th</sup> c. Danish Philosopher

“True faith rests upon the character of God and asks no further proof than the moral perfections of the One who cannot lie... Faith is the gaze of a soul upon a saving God.”

~A.W. Tozer (1897-1963), American pastor and author

“The main reason...that you cannot extract ethical principles from Christianity and set them up on their own is that Christianity is not an ethical system. It is not meant to be a prescription for good behavior, although good behavior is one of its side effects. It is a story. Christians believe that it is a true story but a story, nonetheless.”

~William Kirk Kilpatrick, former longtime professor at Boston College

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## *Worship through the Word*

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**SERMON** – “The Offering of Isaac” – *Pastor Don Willeman*

**SERMON PASSAGES** –

*Genesis 22:1-19 (NASB)*

<sup>1</sup> Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” <sup>2</sup> He said, “Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you.” <sup>3</sup> So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and Isaac his son; and he split wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. <sup>4</sup> On the third day Abraham raised his eyes and saw the place from a distance. <sup>5</sup> Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey, and I and the lad will go over there; and we will worship and return to you.” <sup>6</sup> Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son, and he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. <sup>7</sup> Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” And he said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” <sup>8</sup> Abraham said, “God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” So the two of them walked on together.

<sup>9</sup> Then they came to the place of which God had told him; and Abraham built the altar there and arranged the wood, and bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top

of the wood. <sup>10</sup> Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. <sup>11</sup> But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” <sup>12</sup> He said, “Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.” <sup>13</sup> Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him a ram caught in the thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son. <sup>14</sup> Abraham called the name of that place The Lord Will Provide, as it is said to this day, “In the mount of the Lord it will be provided.”

<sup>15</sup> Then the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, <sup>16</sup> and said, “By Myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup> indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. <sup>18</sup> In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.” <sup>19</sup> So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham lived at Beersheba.

*Hebrews 11:17-19 (NASB)*

<sup>17</sup> By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son; <sup>18</sup> it was he to whom it was said, “In Isaac your descendants shall be called.” <sup>19</sup> He considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type.