

the Purpose *and* Promises of God

God's Grace to the Rejected Son

Summary

As we continue the narrative of Abraham and Sarah, one thing is strikingly clear. God has been showing, and continues in chapter 21, to show Abraham great grace. This grace leads him to deeper faith. If someone asked Abraham, "What is the reason for the hope that is in you?" Abraham would likely answer, "God has shown me great grace." God has shown us believers great grace too, through Christ. This can also be our answer when someone asks us this question.

Outline

Introduction

Think through how you would answer the question, "What is the reason for the hope that is in you?" Many will ask this, or some variant, as we seek to be a witness of the gospel and we must be prepared with an answer.

1. How would you answer the question, “What is the reason for that hope that is in you?”

2. What is the wilderness, the wandering that God brought you out of? What in your life did you previously cling to for life, despite it solely asking for your death?

3. In what ways do you still struggle to cling to grace? How are you tempted to cling to the world?

4. How does this passage sharpen you to be a witness of God’s grace?