

**Intro:**

EP (Main point of text): Each covenant family member sinfully pursues God's special blessing; once again, God shows that His blessing cannot be earned or taken, but received by grace alone.

HP: *Never boast in yourself.*

**Move 1: *You should care most about being blessed by the God of the patriarchs.***

The theme of the chapter is God's patriarchal blessing seen by the sheer volume of the words "blessing" and "bless" (nearly 20 times). Everyone anxiously pursues it. Urgency by all. This blessing matters: it is not only about earth, but the Messiah and heaven.

**Move 2: *But see that God's blessing does not come through you trying to earn or take it.***

Isaac at first tries to go around God's plan: Gen. 25:23. Esau has no problem breaking his covenant with Jacob about the birthright (Gen. 25:33). Rebekah tries to take God's promise into her own hands by tricking her husband/turning her son into a liar. While Jacob at first hesitates, he quickly gets good at it. Amount of text focused on deceit emphasizes the problem. And stages of Isaac's hesitation/steps of Jacob. Why allowed to happen? To demonstrate saved by grace/not by works.

**Move 3: *God's blessing is only received through faith and only by His sovereign grace.***

Jacob doesn't earn/secure the blessing. Should lose it for the lies. This was his fear: vs. 11-12. God blesses Jacob *in spite* of his works. Election emphasizing sovereign grace for our salvation.

*And not only this; but when Rebecca also had conceived by one, even by our father Isaac; (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;). It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated. (Rom 9:10-13)*

Vs. 33: Isaac shakes terribly when realizes he couldn't go around God's plan. He remembers and recommit to the Abrahamic Covenant. Isaac stops trying to work things out and defers to faith like every child of Abraham: *By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.* (Heb 11:20). He learned the lesson of the text today is Ephesians 2:8-10.

**Conclusion:**

HP: *Never boast in yourself.*