

**HOW TO ACHIEVE YOUR DREAMS**  
**GENESIS 37:19**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. Glenn Cunningham had a dream that was almost beyond his grasp, but with determination, he lived the dream. (Isa. 40.31)
2. Joseph had a dream that he would be elevated above his family, and his dream was achieved as the ruler of Egypt. (Gen. 37.19)

**I. JOSEPH THE DREAMER**

- A. Joseph had two dreams. (Gen. 37.1-11)
  1. Joseph's dream of reigning over his brothers. (vs. 5-7)
  2. Joseph's dream of reigning over his parents. (v. 10)
- B. There were three reactions to Joseph's dreams.
  1. Joseph did not initially give credit to God.
  2. Joseph's brothers reacted with hostility. (Gen. 37.8)
  3. His parents reacted with thoughtfulness. (Gen. 37.11)

**II. HOW DREAMS CAN COME TRUE**

- A. The realization of Joseph's dream. (Gen. 41.46)
  1. Joseph was sold into slavery. (Gen. 37.28)
  2. Joseph excelled in Potiphar's house. (Gen. 39.3,4)
  3. Joseph was wrongfully imprisoned. (Gen. 39.19,20)
  4. Joseph was made the second most powerful man in the world, and it all happened in 13 years. (Gen. 41.15,16)
- B. How did Joseph realize his dream? (Gen. 45.3-9)
  1. **VERSE 5:** *"For God has sent me before you..."*
  2. **VERSE 7:** *"And God sent me before you..."*
  3. **VERSE 8:** *"It was not you who sent me here but God"*
  4. **VERSE 9:** *"God has made me lord of all Egypt."*
  5. **GENESIS 50.20:** *"God meant it for good."*
- C. When we dream and make plans for the future, we can never leave God out of it.
  1. **ROMANS 8.28:** *"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God"*
  2. Our future is based on the will of God. (James 4.13-16)

**CONCLUSION:** What do we see in our future?

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*"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"*  
-Mark 16.15

**January 8, 2023**

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**MEETING TIMES:**

**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM**

**SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM**

**SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM**

**WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM**

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## **THIS WORLD IS NOT MY HOME**

Esau is described by the Holy Spirit as profane (Heb. 12.16). That because he sold his birthright *"for one morsel of food."* As the older of two brothers, Esau would have inherited much more than his father's possessions. He would have inherited the promises of God including the land of Canaan, and would have been one of the patriarch of the people of God.

But instead of being the children of Edom, God's people were the children of Israel. That because he was hungry and willing to sell his birthright to his brother Jacob (Israel; Gen. 32.28), to satisfy his appetite. He was more concerned about his temporary physical needs than he was for his future spiritual blessings (Gen. 25.29ff).

When faced with a strong appetite for the things of this world such as sexual desire, a desire to exact revenge, and monetary desires, it can be difficult to keep in mind our future spiritual blessings. If we are not careful, we might follow the example of Esau and sacrifice our spiritual future for what is temporary (Col. 3.2). It is important to remember that this world is not our home (Phil. 3.20; Heb. 11.16).

The things of this world are temporary, *"but he who does the will of God abides forever"* (1 John 2.17). Will you give up an eternal home for that which is temporary (Matt. 16.26)? CLP

## REACHING FOR THE GOAL OF ETERNAL LIFE

### PHILIPPIANS 3:14

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. For the nation of Israel, the first day of the year was a special day of worship. (Ex. 12.2; 40.2,17)
2. For us, the first day of the year is a time of new year's resolutions. But we do not always reach our goals.
3. The goal of eternal life is a goal that we cannot afford to miss. But how do we reach that goal? (Phil. 3.14)

#### I. YOU MUST BE IN CHRIST

##### A. PHILIPPIANS 3.14: *"the goal...in Christ Jesus."*

1. Eternal life through religion? (Acts 17.22,30; Phil. 3.5-8)
2. Eternal life through being a good person? (Phil. 3.9)

##### B. To reach the goal of eternal life, you must be in Christ.

#### II. YOU MUST BE PLEASING TO GOD

##### A. 2 CORINTHIANS 5.9: *"Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him."*

1. Contextually, Paul desired to shed his earthly body and inhabit his immortal, spiritual body. (2 Cor. 5.2,4,8)
2. Why did Paul want to enter into heaven? (2 Cor. 5.6,8)
3. Therefore, Paul lived to please God. (2 Cor. 5.9)

##### B. To reach the goal of eternal life, you must please God.

1. There is only one way to please God. You must live a life of faith. (Heb. 11.6; cf. Rom. 8.8)
2. The brethren in Thessalonica were told how to please God by living a sanctified life. (1 Thess. 4.1-3)

#### III. YOU MUST PRACTICE SELF-DISCIPLINE

##### A. 1 CORINTHIANS 9.27: *"But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection."* Self-control is everything!

1. 1 CORINTHIANS 9.24,25: *"And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things."*
2. Paul put his desires into subjection *"lest...I myself should become disqualified"* (1 Cor. 9.26,27)
3. Paul did not always exercise self-control. (Rom. 7.15)

##### B. To reach the goal of eternal life, you must exercise self-control. (2 Pet. 1.5-10; Gal. 5.22,23)

**CONCLUSION:** Are you pursuing the goal of eternal life?

## BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS

After the first global war known as WWI, nation leaders joined together to form an international governing body. This body was founded on January 10, 1920 and had a single purpose. It's one mission was to maintain world peace. That mission failed, and in 1939, we had our second global war known as WWII. It was shortly after the war ended in 1945 that nation leaders once again formed an international governing body known as the United Nations. The United Nations is still in existence today. Nonetheless, there has never been a time in our history where there has not been war somewhere in the world.

Peace is important to God. He is the *"God of peace"* (Rom. 1.33). When Jesus was born, the angels praised God saying, *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, and goodwill toward men"* (Luke 2.14). God expects us to be people who *"pursue the things which make for peace"* (Rom. 14.19). But peace does not come naturally and without effort. It must be made. Is it any wonder why Jesus said in His beatitudes, *"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall see God."* The ones who are truly happy are the ones who make peace.

There are three ways in which you and I can make peace. First, we can make peace spiritually. As a peacemaker, God sent Jesus to make peace with man (Rom. 5.10). We also make peace with God when we respond to God's offer of peace by have a faith that moves us to obey the gospel (Rom. 5.1). We are also peacemakers when we help others be at peace with God be sharing with them *"the gospel of peace"* (Rom. 10.15). Those who are truly happy are those who have made their peace with God through the gospel and are helping others make peace with God by sharing the good news of salvation.

Second, we can make peace socially. It is not always easy to get along with others. Yet if there is conflict with others, we are told to work it out (Matt. 18.15). Paul wrote about the division that existed between Jews and Gentiles. They no longer needed to be socially divided because Jesus *"is our peace, who has broken down the wall of separation"* (Eph. 2.14). People who normally would not be friends can enjoy friendship together. People who seemed to have nothing in common now can be united as brothers and sisters because of the commonality they have in Christ (Jude 3).

Third, we can make peace emotionally. The apostles were living in troubled times. Jesus was about to be crucified. But He tells His apostles, *"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you"* (John 14.27; 16.33). When we put our trust in God who will not leave us, we can have *"the peace of God which surpasses all understanding"* (Phil. 4.6,7). Are you truly happy? Are you a peacemaker? CLP