



Portion:

Title:

## SCRIPTURES

- Romans 8:28-32
- II Peter 1:2-4, I John 3:1-3
- John 3:10-21

## THE WINNING HAND

- To Those Who?
- Predestined For?
- To What Length?

## SEED:

"What then shall we say to these things? **If God is for us, who can be against us?** He who **did not spare His own Son**, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not **with Him also freely give us all things?**" Romans 8:31-32 NKJV

"For God so loved the world **that He gave His only begotten Son**, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. **For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world**, but that the world **through Him might be saved.**" John 3:16-18 NKJV

## FRUIT:

"Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as **His divine power has given to us all**

**things that pertain to life and godliness**, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, **by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises**, that through these you may be **partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” II Peter 1:2-4 NKJV

”Behold **what manner of love** the Father has bestowed on us, **that we should be called children of God!** Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and **it has not yet been revealed what we shall be**, but we know that **when He is revealed, we shall be like Him**, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.” I John 3:1-3 NKJV

## **NARRATIVE FOR TODAY’S SCRIPTURES: ROMANS**

**Last week in [The Mind of God](#) (Romans 8:23-27)...** We’ve previously established that creation is suffering the immense cost for human sin! Man’s pointless behavior subjected all of creation to a fruitless penalty, resulting in an ongoing systemic deterioration, from which now it awaits eagerly to be restored. We learned that creation was an innocent victim and played no role in its own demise. The entirety of creation is currently participating in a common calamity—a mutual experience of chaos and decay. If it could speak it would echo the words of the son of David,

“Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher. “Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.”

As such, creation is in utter anticipation like an expectant mother, at the peak of labor, to whom the birth of her child is imminent. Imagine the deep inarticulate sounds she makes at the very height of her contractions, as her child passes into the birth canal and begins to emerge, and then multiply those guttural sounds by the size of the universe. Do that and you might just begin to personify what creation is experiencing.

And now we learn that it is not just creation standing by, anxiously optimistic that the birth of something new is at hand—or might we say the rebirth! Mankind is also expectant, experiencing the same type of labor pains, but only those who are filled with the Holy Spirit. All others aren’t even aware that they are pregnant. Yes, God’s people should be equally expectant, optimistically desperate for this new creation, this re-creation, this restored creation to arrive. And as previously explored, it is literally our responsibility to make it happen. However, that for which God’s people anxiously labor goes beyond the restoration of broken creation. We know what comes afterwards—the ultimate expression for why God adopted us into His family—the receipt of our new permanent, immortal, incorruptible, glorified bodies.

That is the ultimate outcome of the entire redemptive story of mankind. It is why the Father sent His Son to save us. It is literally the only reason we have hope. And at times it is judicious to state the obvious, and not because somehow the obvious is not obvious. Instead, it's because the obvious sometimes has hidden layers below the surface of what is so apparent. If these prophetic events had taken place already, then we could not use hope to describe how we feel about them. No one hopes for something to happen if it already happened; that would be ridiculous. We might revel in the outcome, like a mother nursing her child born minutes ago. But we wouldn't feel the emotions of hope, if the birth had already occurred, as if worried over pending complications. No, these intense emotions of hope that we feel, at this very moment, are because we are still waiting—we still have work to do! And that is where persistent resolve enters. No matter what it looks like right now, even when it appears that what we anticipate is unlikely or impossible, we can be one hundred percent assured. Keep moving forward; it is certain to happen.

And if hope itself is not comforting enough, there is even better news. We are not laboring alone. The Holy Spirit is interceding on our behalf. It's as if the Holy Spirit is in labor with us and when we are too exhausted to keep pushing, so emptied of strength that we can't make another peep, those deep inarticulate

sounds continue to pour forth from our weakness. But this time they emanate from the Holy Spirit within us, powerful sounds that couldn't possibly come from anything human.

The ministry of the Holy Spirit is to do the Father's bidding—to carry out God's will. Never will the Spirit take action or speak a word beyond the Father's instructions. Can you wrap your mind around how enormous this is? Maybe if it's worded differently you will appreciate the magnitude. The Holy Spirit knows precisely what God wants to say and speaks those very words on your behalf. And what is even more outrageous is that it happens through your mouth! The very thing that is on God's heart in the moment, the top priority in His mind, flows from your lips. You are speaking the mind of God. Now, there is nothing in the universe that can inspire more hope than that!

**This week in Romans 8:28-32...** This is the perfect segue to make his transition in Romans to the next critical topic. The following concepts hint at what is coming and are so dense, they carry so much weight, that it is prudent to divide these teachings into two messages, each with pastoral exhortation and prophetic implications. The first will highlight how critical it is to understand your calling and how that affects how you live. It will explain the path to God's ultimate promise, being conformed into the image of Christ, and just how far God would go to ensure you receive the

fullness of what He made available to you. The next teaching will emphasize the prophetic implication of how you are called, like Y'shua, to be a sheep to the slaughter, and that no matter what comes against you in your daily life along the way, you are guaranteed the ultimate victory in Christ!

Was there ever another man who could pack more meaning into one sentence than Paul: for good, for God, for purpose? It's all good to those who...? It's the ultimate encouragement, the fuel for hope. And then the two ultimate identifying markers: one a stipulation, your desire to express the nature of God. The other to recognize the ultimate reason for your very existence, the desire to walk in His calling for your life—individually and corporately. For good, for God, for purpose.

If you get caught in the weeds in any particular circumstance in your life, it will be difficult to see the forest from the trees. Mixed metaphors for sure, but very useful together. When all your attention, energy, and anxiety is pooling at one inflection point, in one difficult moment in life, it becomes near impossible to see the big picture, to have confidence that all will be okay. God makes no representation, He offers no promises that everything will always feel good. What He does promise is that in the end, no matter how difficult things might have been at times, and no matter how often you've faced tremendous challenges, it will all work out to your

benefit. God was working behind the scenes, on your behalf, the whole time.

And what does it mean to Love God? We know it is the greatest commandment, and one equal to it, to love your fellow man. But how do you do that? You love God by radical obedience to His commands, and you love your neighbor by never standing idly by as you watch them drown in sin. You intervene, rebuke as necessary, throw them the life-preserver of correction—do anything within your power, by God’s grace, to alter their course. If you love someone you can’t remain silent.

The fullness of what it means to be “the called” is something to be elaborated on later. For this moment assume that it refers to born-again children of God, those who have received and accepted God’s glorious invitation into eternity. This way we can focus on His purpose for your life. Two things come to mind: first God has a plan for your life and that plan was hatched before you were born, from the foundations of creation, and that plan is good, one meant to prosper you in spirit, soul and body. Secondly, God planted seeds of purpose in your heart and your job is to search them out, to recognize them, water them, and cultivate them. And that begins with sincere delight to submit your life as if everything is founded upon your faith and your desire to please God—making it the chief

priority in your life. Do this and every desire God planted in your heart will be fulfilled.

One secret to making this happen will seem counterintuitive, however. You must lose your life to gain your life. Then and only then can you step into the fullness of why God created you—to fulfill your unique purpose. You are literally God's fingerprint, a one-of-a-kind piece of divine artwork. Your first assignment: find your purpose. You were born an original; don't die a copy! And that will require two things, the proper perspective and the proper motivation. This life is just a shadow of God's spiritual reality and the things of this world will come and go like a vapor of steam that rises from a pot of boiling water. And you must run this race to the very end—pursue God's purpose for your life through the finish line. If you give in during the race and in the end pursue the desires of this world, your race will not end with any real satisfaction.

Coming up in chapter nine, the idea of predestination and God's sovereignty will be front and center in regards to one's election and eternal destiny. Here Paul refers to God's foreknowledge of the ultimate transformation of God's people into the likeness of Christ. There is a massive prophetic reason that we must end up like Him. Christ is just the first of many firstborns! We are the church of the firstborn. It is at Passover that God separates true firstborn sons of God, from imposters—firstborn sons who are



not of God—and at which time He also separates all firstborn sons from sons who are not born first.

If we look backward and forward into Romans we will see the ongoing theme that might be summarized as such: the ultimate destination in our transformation as Christians is to look like Y'shua. Imagine this, you are standing in a mirror and you see the face of Christ staring back at you. And imagine further that it is Him they see when the world looks on at you. Conforming into that image is why we are still here; day-by-day to look more like Him—to act, speak, walk and love like Him. The entire ministry of the Church is to edify itself until we stand in the stature of the perfect man!

If we continue for now to shy away from the controversy surrounding predestination and one's election and eternal destiny, and simply consider that what it means to be "the called" is that you were invited to be a born-again child of God and Paul is speaking of those who accepted the invitation. Again, we can tackle what it means to be predestined as such in chapter nine, as it affords ample opportunity to sift through that topic. As a child of God you are also invited into the sanctification process; you are being made holy—set-apart from the world for God. Holy is the outcome; sanctification is the process. You must jump in and participate, but here's the thing. God will keep pressing you in every way necessary until you conform. The more you resist the

harder He presses. As a Christian, you are to be set-apart for God, whether you like it or not! It is your ultimate destiny to express God's glory. Remember, creation itself will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. And that can't happen if you won't be glorious. Of course, the final version of the glorified you is when you resurrect in your new permanent, incorruptible, glorified body!

If you are predestined as His called, justified, and glorified children, then it is safe to say God is on your side! And if God is on your side, does it matter who is on the other team? And if you think somehow that if the opposing team assembles a strong enough opposition, they will be able to mount an effective attack against you and prevent you from fulfilling both your corporate and individual purpose, then you don't fully appreciate what God has provided for you. It's as if you received a preloaded Visa Gift Card with NO LIMIT on your spending, ever! But you shop as if you have a limited budget, worried you can't afford even to fill your gas tank. "Give me twenty on pump number six." No one who understood that they had unlimited funds in their possession would skimp on gas. "Fill it up and fill the tanks of everyone else as well," would be more like it!

Let's discuss how much of a priority you are to God. He offered His only begotten Son as a burnt offering, sin offering, and

drink offering for little old you! As the burnt offering He surrendered everything; He literally gave up His form as God and became a human bondservant. As a sin offering He shed His blood and became the propitiation for your sins. And as a drink offering He became a vapor and ascended to heaven. Today He remains at the right hand of His Father until we finish our job—the restoration of all things. And if you believe God would do all that and somehow omit something you need to complete the task, you are sadly mistaken. You have everything you need for life and godliness right now, so get to work!

Next we will explore all the opposing forces that you will face when you serve God with your whole heart, and you will come to the conclusion that in the end NOTHING can come between you and your loving Father.

“Think in Bible.” DJH

## **INTRODUCTION TO TODAY’S MESSAGE:**

*At times, ideas you’ve never before considered breeze across your mind and suddenly the mundane becomes utterly profound. You fall deep inside the thought and realize you’ve been unwittingly slow playing your cards all along. Do you know what that means? That is when in a card game you are conscious of holding the winning hand and yet you represent yourself in all ways as if your*

*cards are merely pedestrian. You are keenly aware you've won, but you want your opponents to believe otherwise so you can draw them in further, tempting them to commit a larger stake, all so you can win more of their chips. This play does not work well in matters of the Spirit. And that is because no one would slow play things of God intentionally; there is no upside in knowing you hold the winning hand and acting as if you've lost. If you did, you are guaranteed to lose, and so does everyone around you who needs to witness what winning with the Lord looks like!*

*One such matter of prominence in which you might have unintentionally slow played your hand is divulged when you unexpectedly realize that your cards hold the secrets of the universe, the words of the living God who created all things. For so long you've treated the Bible casually like any other app on your mobile device, or any other book in your collection of stories. Then your eyes suddenly open and you reconsider the nature of the "cards" you hold in your hands, and just how life-altering it would be if you actually played them. You couldn't lose! No one would slow play these cards deliberately, if they truly comprehended the strength of their hand.*

*Another such region of darkness is exposed to the light when you live life, plodding along as if you are infected with some type of deficiency or lack—a losing hand. And then you abruptly*

*experience the revelation that God would not leave you with any insufficiency—proven by one undeniable fact. The price He paid to make sure you had everything you need was the life of His only begotten Son. If He was willing to pay that much to ensure you have the winning hand, how on earth can you imagine under any condition that you don't?*

TO THOSE WHO?

## **1. All things work together...**

### **A. For Good, for God, for Purpose**

#### **(1) The Next Two Teachings**

(a) This is the perfect segue to make his transition in Romans to the next critical topic.

1. The following concepts hint at what is coming and are very dense—they carry so much weight.

a) It is prudent to divide these teachings into two messages, each with pastoral exhortation and prophetic implications.

1) **Teaching #1:** It is critical to understand your calling and how it affects how you live. It will explain the path to God's ultimate promise—being conformed into the image of Christ—and just how far God would go to ensure you

receive the fullness of what He made available to you.

- 2) **Teaching #2:** To emphasize the prophetic implication of what it means to be called, like Y'shua, to be a sheep to the slaughter, and how, no matter what comes against you in your daily life along the way, you are guaranteed the ultimate victory in Christ!

(2) One Verse, so much Meaning: Was there ever another man who could pack more meaning into one sentence?

(a) It's all good to those who...?

1. "And we know that **all things work together for good** to those who **love God**, to those who are **the called** **according to His purpose.**" Romans 8:28 NKJV

2. For good, For God, For purpose

a) First, the ultimate encouragement, fuel for hope.

b) There are two ultimate identifying markers:

- 1) One is a stipulation, your desire to express the nature of God (II Peter 1:4). God is love. (I John 4:8, 16, )

- 2) The other is to recognize the ultimate reason for your very existence, the desire to walk in His

calling for you life—individually and corporately. Walk like He walked (I John 2:5-6)

c) **Mixed metaphors:** If you get **caught in the weeds** in any particular circumstance in your life, it will be difficult to see **the forest from the trees**.

- 1) When all your attention, energy, and anxiety is pooling at one inflection point, in one difficult moment in life, it becomes near impossible to see the big picture, to have confidence that all will be okay.
- 2) God makes no representation, no promises, that everything will always feel good.
- 3) He does promise that no matter how difficult things might have been at times, and no matter how often you've faced tremendous challenges, it will all work out to your benefit in the end.
- 4) God was working behind the scenes the whole time, on your behalf.

3. What does it mean to Love God?

- a) To love God is the greatest commandment.
  - 1) *"Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. And **you shall love the***

**Lord your God** with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. [from **Deuteronomy 6:4-5**] And the second, like it, is this: **‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’** [from **Leviticus 19:17-18**] There is no other commandment greater than these.”“ Mark 12:29-31 NKJV

- b) But how do you fulfill them? You love God by radical obedience to His commands,
  - 1) “If you love Me, **keep My commandments.**” John 14:15 NKJV
  - 2) “By this we know that we love the children of God, **when we love God and keep His commandments.** For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.” I John 5:2-3 NKJV
- c) And the command equal to loving God, to love your fellow man.
  - 1) “**You shall not hate your brother** in your heart. **You shall surely rebuke** your neighbor, and **not bear sin** because of him. You shall **not take**



*vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but **you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.***” Leviticus 19:17-18 NKJV

- 2) ***“If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that **he who loves God must love his brother also.**”*** 1 John 4:20-21 NKJV

d) Love your neighbor by never standing idly by as you watch them drown in sin.

- 1) ***“Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, **let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.**”*** James 5:19-20 NKJV
- 2) Intervene, rebuke as necessary, throw them the life-preserver of correction—do anything within your power, by God’s grace, to alter their course. If you love someone you can’t remain silent.

#### 4. The Called

a) The fullness of what it means to be “the called” is something to be elaborated on later.

1) For now let’s say that it refers to born-again children of God, those who has received and accepted an invitation into eternity with God.

#### 5. Now, let’s focus on His purpose for your life. Two things come to mind:

a) God has a plan for your life and that plan was hatched before you were born, from the foundations of creation, and that plan is good, one meant to prosper you in spirit, soul and body.

1) *“For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. **My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them. How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O***

*God! How great is the sum of them!” Psalms  
139:13-17 NKJV*

2) *“For **I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord**, thoughts of peace and not of evil, **to give you a future and a hope.**” Jeremiah  
29:11 NKJV*

3) *“For **we are His workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus for good works, **which God prepared beforehand** that we should **walk in them.**”  
Ephesians 2:10 NKJV*

b) God planted seeds of purpose in your heart and your job is to search them out, to recognize them, water them, and cultivate them.

1) *“**Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.** Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And **He shall bring it to pass.**” Psalms 37:4-5 NKJV*

2) It all begins with sincere delight to submit your life as if everything is founded upon your faith and your desire to please God—making it the chief priority in your life. Do this and every desire God planted in your heart will be fulfilled.

- c) **However:** One secret to making this happen will seem counterintuitive. You must lose your life to gain your life.
    - 1) *"Then Jesus said to His disciples, **"If anyone desires to come after Me**, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For **whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.**"*  
Matthew 16:24-25 NKJV
    - 2) **Be willing to surrender all:** Then and only then can you step into the fullness of why God created you—to fulfill your unique purpose.
  - d) You are literally God's fingerprint, a one-of-a-kind piece of divine artwork.
    - 1) *"I will praise You, for **I am fearfully and wonderfully made**; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well."* Psalms 139:14 NKJV
    - 2) *"For we are **God's masterpiece...**"* Ephesians 2:10 NLT
6. **Your first assignment:** Find your purpose. You were born an original; don't die a copy! And that will

require **two things**, the proper perspective and the proper motivation.

- a) **The proper perspective:** This life is just a shadow of God's spiritual reality and the things of this world will come and go like a vapor of steam that rises from a pot of boiling water.

- 1) *"Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow.*

***For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that."*** James 4:13-15 NKJV

- b) **The proper motivation:** You must run this race to the very end—pursue God's purpose for your life through the finish line. If you give in during the race and in the end pursue the desires of this world, your race will not end with any real satisfaction.

- 1) *"Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? **Run in such***

*a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.*

***Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection,*** lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified." I Corinthians 9:24-27 NKJV

2) ***"Do not love the world*** or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him." I John 2:15 NKJV

3) *"...let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and **let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,*** looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith..." Hebrews 12:1-2 NKJV

c) Even Y'shua was tempted to exit the race!

1) *"For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, **to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.** [17]*

Therefore, in all things **He had to be made like His brethren**, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, **to make propitiation for the sins of the people.** For **in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted** [tempted by the Devil to give up His mission (Matthew 4:1-11); tempted in the Garden of Gethsemane to forsake the cross (Luke 22:41-44); and tempted during His betrayal to call down angels to stop His arrest (Matthew 26:47-56)] , **He is able to aid those who are tempted.**“ Hebrews 2:10, 17-18 NKJV

- 2) “*though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience **by the things which He suffered.** And **having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,**“ Hebrews 5:8-9 NKJV*
- 3) “*who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death [in the Garden of Gethsemane when He sweat blood (Luke 22:41-44)], and was heard because of His godly*

*fear, though He was a Son, yet **He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,***“ Hebrews 5:7-9 NKJV

PREDESTINED FOR?

## 2. The Foreknowledge of God

### A. Conformed to the Image of Y'shua

#### (1) Prophetic Destiny

(a) For whom He foreknew, He also predestined...

1. "For whom He **foreknew**, He also **predestined** to be **conformed to the image** of His Son, that He might be **the firstborn among many brethren.**" Romans 8:29 NKJV

2. God's foreknowledge of the ultimate transformation of God's people into the likeness of Christ.

a) Coming up in chapter nine, what it means to be predestined and God's sovereignty will be front and center to clarify how they relate to ones election and eternal destiny.

b) The foreknowledge of God is the idea that with Yahweh there is nothing that is unknown: past,



present, and future. God is omniscient and operates outside of linear time. **He can report our future as if it already occurred!**

- 1) ***"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."***

Jeremiah 1:5 NKJV

- 2) ***"For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb... And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them."***

*How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!"* Psalms 139:13-17 NKJV

- 3) ***"Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To the... elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied."*** 1

Peter 1:1-2 NKJV

- c) **Here the focus is the prophetic:** we must end up like Him (conformed to His image).

- d) Why? Christ is just the first of many firstborns!

- 1) We are the church of the firstborn and it is at Passover that God separates true firstborn sons of God, from imposters—firstborn sons who are not of God—and also separates all firstborn sons from sons who are not born first.
  - 2) For the full teaching on the Passover and Firstborns, see [The Unveiling](#) (Romans 8:18-22).
  - 3) God has the foreknowledge that this will happen. *“**For as many as** are led by the Spirit of God, **these are [firstborn] sons** of God.”*  
Romans 8:14 NKJV
  - 4) *“But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become **the firstfruits of those** who have fallen asleep.”* 1 Corinthians 15:20 NKJV
  - 5) *“and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, **the firstborn from the dead**, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,”*  
Revelation 1:5 NKJV
3. Paul also sets the stage for the proper understanding of what is coming next, when he will teach us about the complicated dynamic between Jacob and Esau in

the next chapter—Jacob steps into the firstborn role over Esau—something God also foreknew.

- a) If we look backward and forward into Romans we will see the ongoing theme that might be summarized as: **the ultimate destination in our transformation as Christians is to look like Y'shua.**

- 1) **Backward:** *"Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so **we also should walk in newness of life.** For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in **the likeness of His resurrection,** knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should **no longer be slaves of sin.** [11] Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be **dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus** our Lord. [18] And having been **set free from sin,** you became **slaves of righteousness.** [22] But now having been **set free from sin,** and having become **slaves of God,** you have your*

*fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.”*

Romans 6:4-6, 11, 18, 22 NKJV

- 2) **Forward:** *“But **put on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and **make no provision for the flesh**, to fulfill its lusts.”* Romans 13:14 NKJV

4. Imagine this, you are standing in a mirror and you see the face of Christ staring back at you. And imagine further that it is Him they see when the world looks on at you.

- a) Conforming into that image is why we are still here; day-by-day to look more like Him—to act, speak, walk and love like Him. The entire ministry of the Church is to edify itself until we stand in the stature of the perfect man.

- 1) *“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—**heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ**, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.”* Romans 8:16-17 NKJV

- 2) *“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, **for the equipping of the***

*saints for the work of ministry, for the **edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the** unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, **to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;** that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, **may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—** from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”*

Ephesians 4:11-16 NKJV

- 3) *“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, **are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory,** just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”* II

Corinthians 3:18 NKJV

- 4) *“But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that*

*we are in Him. **He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.***" I

John 2:5-6 NKJV

b) Your Undeniable Destiny

- 1) *"Behold **what manner of love** the Father has bestowed on us, **that we should be called children of God!** Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and **it has not yet been revealed what we shall be**, but we know that **when He is revealed, we shall be like Him**, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure."* I John 3:1-3 NKJV

**B. He knows your destiny...**

- (1) You were predestined to be conformed to the image as a firstborn, but how does your transformation occur?
  - (a) From Called to Justified to Glorified!
    1. *"Moreover whom He predestined, these **He also called**; whom He called, these **He also justified**; and whom He justified, these **He also glorified.**"* Romans 8:30 NKJV
  - (b) Called (The Parable of the Wedding Banquet):

1. *"And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were **invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come.** Again, he sent out other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. **Come to the wedding."** ' But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. **Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.**' So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. **And the wedding hall was filled with guests. "But** when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment.*

*So he said to him, 'Friend, **how did you come in here without a wedding garment?**' And he was **speechless**. Then the king said to the servants, '**Bind him hand and foot**, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'* **"For many are called, but few are chosen."**  
" Matthew 22:1-14 NKJV

2. You were invited to be a born-again child of God and accepted the invitation.
  - a) Invitation Accepted! For this teaching predestination, ones election, and eternal destiny, is related "the called."
  - b) God had foreknowledge of all those who would accept because, again, He is omniscient (all knowing). This does not mean He omnideterministic (that He determined all for you in advance).
  - c) Again, we can tackle what it means to be predestined as such in chapter nine, as it affords ample opportunity to sift through that topic.
- (c) Justified



1. *"Therefore, having been **justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,"*

Romans 5:1 NKJV

- a) Once the invitation is accepted from those you are authentic, as demonstrated in the Parable of the Wedding Feast, you are justified (you come into right-standing with God).

- b) However if you are an excuse-maker your destiny is different. (The Parable of the Great Banquet):

- 1) *"Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, '**Come, for all things are now ready.**' But they all with one accord began to make excuses. **The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground,** and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.' And **another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen,** and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.' Still **another said, 'I have married a wife,** and therefore I cannot come.' So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then **the master of the house, being angry, said to his***

*servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.’ And the servant said, ‘Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.’ Then the master said to the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. For I say to you that **none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.**’ ”“Luke 14:16-24 NKJV*

(d) Glorified

1. *“For **this is the will of God, your sanctification:** that you should abstain from sexual immorality (the gateway sin, see Roman 1:18-32);” I Thessalonians 4:3 NKJV*
2. *“Now may the God of peace Himself **sanctify you completely;** and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” I Thessalonians 5:23 NKJV*
3. Holy is the outcome; sanctification is the process. You must jump in and participate.

- a) As a child of God you are also invited into the sanctification process; you are being made holy, set-apart from the world for God.
  - b) God will keep pressing you in every way necessary until you conform.
  - c) The more you resist the harder He presses. As a Christian, you are set-apart for God, whether you like it or not!
4. It is your ultimate destiny is to express God's glory.
- a) *"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with **the glory which shall be revealed in us.** [21] because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption **into the glorious liberty of the children of God.**"* Romans 8:18, 21 NKJV
  - b) Creation won't be delivered from bondage if you won't be glorious.
5. Of course, the final version of the glorified you is when you resurrect in your new permanent, incorruptible, glorified body!
- a) *"So **when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality,** then shall be brought to pass the*

saying that is written: ***“Death is swallowed up in victory.”*** I Corinthians 15:54 NKJV

(2) Input from Pastor Manny Fernandez

(a) From Predestined to Glorified

1. “Moreover whom He **predestined**, these He also called; whom He **called**, these He also **justified**; and whom He justified, these He also **glorified**.” Romans 8:30 NKJV

2. The Apostle Paul shifts to an aorist verb usage.

a) Aorist: (Especially in Greek), and unqualified past tense of a verb without reference to duration or completion of the action.

b) This should indicate something to us, not just from a linguistic or literary perspective, but from what Paul intends for us to conclude. We should recognize that these have already been fulfilled in the mind of God (Called, Justified, Glorified), hence, that is why in the preceding verse the Apostle Paul introduces the notion of “God's foreknowledge.” ***“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”*** Romans 8:29 NKJV

- c) God is not limited to time in a linear fashion as we see time. He knows the end from the beginning.

3. Three concepts... (Called, Justified, Glorified)

- a) With the foreknowledge of God as our perspective, these must therefore encompass and encapsulate the entire message and completion of the salvation and redemption experience for the Christian.

- 1) It is no secret that these three have been at the center of centuries' worth of arguments; disputations have come from every angle.

(b) Called, Justified, Glorified

- 1. **Called:** That is to say, God "invited" someone. The Greek word here is "kaleō," which is the first non-redundant interpretation of the word found in Strong's Concordance. So, God presents an invitation to the unbeliever. It is preponderant (or incumbent) upon the unbeliever to reject or accept the invitation.

- a) "To as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become His children." John 1:12

- 1) In John 1:12, we can see a perfect manifestation of man's free will and God's Sovereignty. "**To as many as received Him,**" deals with the free will of man to receive or to resist. "To them He gave

the right to become His children,” deals with God's Sovereignty. With these two coupled together at the moment of surrender, we end up with a born-again individual.

2. **Justified:** Once the individual has been born again, they have also been justified. Justified is the equivalent of saying, “Just as if I never sinned.” God’s righteousness has been imputed to the unbeliever who has recognized the error of their sinful, wicked ways, whereby God has essentially placed a stamp on the person to acknowledge that their justification for their past actions is found hanging on the cross of Christ, never to be tried again for the same crimes; justification is a legal term.
3. **Glorified:** Every human being that has received Messiah-Jesus has already achieved this status in the eternal foreknowledge capacity of God. However, we are still living out the process. We are still in a battle, living in this sinful world, and Jesus requested it remain that way (John 17:15 ESV). The glorified body we are going to enjoy in eternity future, based on our finite perspective, is already in existence in the abstract of God’s perspective. However, this does not

negate our witnessing of false converts living under the guise of a fake Christian banner which ultimately leads to a pre-prescribed Matthew 7:21 ending to all who practice lawlessness.

TO WHAT LENGTH?

### **3. Consider what it cost God to redeem you?**

#### **A. You were bought with a price...**

(1) You are on the winning team!

(a) If you are predestined as His called, justified, and glorified children, then it is safe to say God is on your side!

1. "What then shall we say to these things? **If God is for us, who can be against us?**" Romans 8:31 NKJV

2. If God is on your side, does it matter who is on the other team?

a) If you think somehow that if the opposing team assembles a strong enough opposition, they will be able to mount an effective attack against you and prevent you from fulfilling both your corporate and individual purpose, then you don't fully appreciate what God has provided for you.

- 1) *"You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because **He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.**"* I John 4:4 NKJV
- 2) *"Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, **"Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.**"* Romans 12:19 NKJV (from Deuteronomy 32:35)
- 3) *"And he said to his men, **"The Lord forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the Lord's anointed,** to stretch out my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the Lord."*" I Samuel 24:6 NKJV
- 4) *"Then Pilate said to Him, "Are You not speaking to me? **Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?**"* Jesus answered, *"**You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above...**"*" John 19:10-11 NKJV
- 5) *"No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, **but with the temptation will also***



***make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.***” I Corinthians 10:13 NKJV

(2) The Price-tag of Redemption

(a) An infinite cost!

1. “He who **did not spare His own Son**, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him **also freely give us all things?**” Romans 8:32 NKJV

2. Do you know your value?

a) It’s as if you received a preloaded Visa Gift Card with NO LIMIT on your spending, ever!

1) But you shop as if you have a limited budget, worried you can’t afford even to fill your gas tank. “Give me twenty on pump number six.”

2) No one who understood that they had unlimited funds in their possession would skimp on gas. “Fill it up and fill the tanks of everyone else as well,” would be more like it!

(b) You were bought with a price!

1. “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and **you are not your own? For you were bought at a price;** therefore glorify God in your body

and in your spirit, which are God's." I Corinthians  
6:19-20 NKJV

a) The Price: Infinite! *"He who did not spare His own Son..."* Do you know your value?

(c) Let's discuss how much of a priority you are to God.

1. **"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but **he who does not believe is condemned already**, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." John 3:16-18 NKJV**
2. **"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, **that we might live** through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our**

sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." I John 4:7-11 NKJV

- a) As the burnt offering (see Leviticus 1) He surrendered everything; He literally gave up His form as God and became a human bondservant.
  - 1) *"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, **being in the form of God**, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, **taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.** And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."* Philippians 2:5-8 NKJV
  - 2) It is the oldest and most common of the offerings, found as early as the Book of Genesis. This was an offering with the worshipper voluntarily devoting his whole offering to God. The Burnt Offering (Olah in Hebrew), literally means "to go up." The whole offering "went up in smoke," providing a sweet-smelling aroma to the Lord, with nothing returned to the worshipper.

3) **You be the burnt offering!** *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, **that you present your bodies a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service."* Romans 12:1 NKJV

b) As a sin offering (see Leviticus 4) He shed His blood and became the propitiation for your sins. God's prescribed way to show sins being paid for through a death.

1) *"whom God **set forth as a propitiation by His blood**, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,"* Romans 3:25 NKJV

2) *"And **He Himself is the propitiation for our sins**, and not for ours only but also for the whole world."* I John 2:2 NKJV

3) **You be the sin offering!** *"Greater love has no one than this, than **to lay down one's life for his friends**."* John 15:13 NKJV

4) *"As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; **We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter**."* Romans 8:36 NKJV

c) And as a drink offering (see Exodus 29) He became a vapor and ascended to heaven.

1) *"Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, **He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.**" Acts 1:9 NKJV*

2) **You be the drink offering!** *"Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ." I Corinthians 11:1 NKJV*

3) *"Yes, and if **I am being poured out as a drink offering** on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all."*  
Philippians 2:17 NKJV

4) *"But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. **For I am already being poured out as a drink offering,** and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." II Timothy 4:5-7 NKJV*

d) Today Y'shua remains at the right hand of His Father until we finish our job—the restoration of all things.

1) *"and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, **whom heaven must***

*receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began."*

Acts 3:20-21 NKJV

(d) And if you believe God would do all that and somehow He left out something you need to complete the task, you are sadly mistaken.

1. "as His divine power has **given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness**, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue," II Peter 1:3 NKJV

2. "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, **that we might know the things that have been freely given to us** by God." I Corinthians 2:12 NKJV

3. "that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, **may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him**, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; **that you may know what is the hope of His calling**, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is **the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe**, according to the working of **His mighty**

**power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead** and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,” Ephesians 1:17-20 NKJV

- a) You have everything you need for life and godliness right now, so get to work!

**B. You have the power of the universe in the palm of your hand...**

- (1) Have you treated the Bible casually, like any other app on your mobile device, or any other book in your collection of stories?

- (a) A compilation of powerful reasons to make God’s Word your number one priority!

- 1. “I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name For Your **lovingkindness** and Your **truth**; **For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.**” Psalms 138:2 NKJV

- 2. “**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.** He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. [14] **And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,** and we beheld His glory, the glory as of

the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:1-4, 14 NKJV

3. **"Blessed is the man** Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; **But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night.** He shall be like **a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season,** Whose leaf also shall not wither; And **whatever he does shall prosper.**" Psalms 1:1-3 NKJV
4. "Blessed are the undefiled in the way, **Who walk in the law of the Lord!** Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, **Who seek Him with the whole heart!** They also do no iniquity; They walk in His ways. You have commanded us To keep Your precepts diligently. **Oh, that my ways were directed To keep Your statutes! Then I would not be ashamed, When I look into all Your commandments.**" Psalms 119:1-6 NKJV
5. **"How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.** With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! **Your word I have hidden in my**



**heart**, That I might not sin against You.” Psalms

119:9-11 NKJV

6. “Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that **he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book**, from the one before the priests, the Levites. And **it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes**, that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren, that he may **not turn aside from the commandment** to the right hand or to the left, and **that he may prolong his days in his kingdom**, he and his children in the midst of Israel.” Deuteronomy 17:18-20 NKJV
7. “**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge**, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.” Proverbs 1:7 NKJV
8. “But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, **knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures**, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. **All Scripture is given by inspiration of**

**God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” II Timothy 3:14-17 NKJV**

9. Summary: reasons to make God’s Word your number one priority!
  - a) God values His Word above everything! Y’shua is God’s living Word. To know it is to know Him!
  - b) A man is blessed when he loves God’s Word and focuses on it all day long. Whatever he does will prosper.
  - c) God’s Word will empower a man to remain pure and to receive God’s blessings.
  - d) A man is blessed when he obeys God’s Word. It is proof that He is seeking God with his whole heart.
  - e) When a man finds direction in God’s Word and is inspired to obey it, he lives a life without guilt and shame!
  - f) A man who heeds God’s Word is a man who lives a sanctified life. It is not possible otherwise!
  - g) When a man does not stray from God’s commandments, his whole heart is dedicated to and directed by God.

- h) When a man's heart is washed with God's Word, he can choose NOT to sin!
- i) When you know God's Word, you can manage your whole life by abiding in it.
- j) Read it continuously and you will gain reverence for God, which is how you gain the wisdom of God.
- k) It will allow you to remain humble and empower you to never stray from God's path.
- l) God's Word will fuel a long prosperous life!
- m) God's Word is the single most useful resource you will ever have.
- n) It's God's direct inspiration to mankind.
- o) It is valuable for its divine teaching; it is useful to convict and correct sin; to instructs you in the right way of living; and to prepare godly people in every way to fulfill their purpose in God!
- p) ***And as we know... "...all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."*** Romans 8:28  
NKJV

### C. Next...

- (1) Next we will explore all the opposing forces that you will face when you serve God with your whole heart, and you will come to the conclusion that in the end NOTHING can come between you and your loving Father.

## **Summary: TO THOSE WHO?**

### **1. All things work together...**

#### **A. For Good, for God, for Purpose**

- (1) The Next Two Teachings
  - (a) This is the perfect segue to make his transition in Romans to the next critical topic.
    1. The following concepts hint at what is coming and are very dense—they carry so much weight.
      - a) It is prudent to divide these teachings into two messages, each with pastoral exhortation and prophetic implications.
        - 1) **Teaching #1:** It is critical to understand your calling and how it affects how you live. It will explain the path to God's ultimate promise—being conformed into the image of Christ—and just how far God would go to ensure you receive the fullness of what He made available to you.

2) **Teaching #2:** To emphasize the prophetic implication of what it means to be called, like Y'shua, to be a sheep to the slaughter, and how, no matter what comes against you in your daily life along the way, you are guaranteed the ultimate victory in Christ!

(2) One Verse, so much Meaning: Was there ever another man who could pack more meaning into one sentence?

(a) It's all good to those who...?

1. For good, For God, For purpose

a) First, the ultimate encouragement, fuel for hope.

b) There are two ultimate identifying markers:

1) One is a stipulation, your desire to express the nature of God (II Peter 1:4). God is love. (I John 4:8, 16, )

2) The other is to recognize the ultimate reason for your very existence, the desire to walk in His calling for you life—individually and corporately. Walk like He walked (I John 2:5-6)

c) **Mixed metaphors:** If you get **caught in the weeds** in any particular circumstance in your life, it will be difficult to see **the forest from the trees**.

- 1) When all your attention, energy, and anxiety is pooling at one inflection point, in one difficult moment in life, it becomes near impossible to see the big picture, to have confidence that all will be okay.
- 2) God makes no representation, no promises, that everything will always feel good.
- 3) He does promise that no matter how difficult things might have been at times, and no matter how often you've faced tremendous challenges, it will all work out to your benefit in the end.
- 4) God was working behind the scenes the whole time, on your behalf.

2. What does it mean to Love God?

- a) To love God is the greatest commandment.
- b) But how do you fulfill them? You love God by radical obedience to His commands,
- c) And the command equal to loving God, to love your fellow man.
- d) Love your neighbor by never standing idly by as you watch them drown in sin.
  - 1) Intervene, rebuke as necessary, throw them the life-preserver of correction—do anything within

your power, by God's grace, to alter their course. If you love someone you can't remain silent.

### 3. The Called

a) The fullness of what it means to be "the called" is something to be elaborated on later.

1) For now let's say that it refers to born-again children of God, those who has received and accepted an invitation into eternity with God.

### 4. Now, let's focus on His purpose for your life. Two things come to mind:

a) God has a plan for your life and that plan was hatched before you were born, from the foundations of creation, and that plan is good, one meant to prosper you in spirit, soul and body.

b) God planted seeds of purpose in your heart and your job is to search them out, to recognize them, water them, and cultivate them.

1) It all begins with sincere delight to submit your life as if everything is founded upon your faith and your desire to please God—making it the chief priority in your life. Do this and every

desire God planted in your heart will be fulfilled.

c) **However:** One secret to making this happen will seem counterintuitive. You must lose your life to gain your life.

1) **Be willing to surrender all:** Then and only then can you step into the fullness of why God created you—to fulfill your unique purpose.

d) You are literally God's fingerprint, a one-of-a-kind piece of divine artwork.

5. **Your first assignment:** Find your purpose. You were born an original; don't die a copy! And that will require **two things**, the proper perspective and the proper motivation.

a) **The proper perspective:** This life is just a shadow of God's spiritual reality and the things of this world will come and go like a vapor of steam that rises from a pot of boiling water.

b) **The proper motivation:** You must run this race to the very end—pursue God's purpose for your life through the finish line. If you give in during the race and in the end pursue the desires of this



world, your race will not end with any real satisfaction.

**Summary:** PREDESTINED FOR?

## **2. The Foreknowledge of God**

### **A. Conformed to the Image of Y'shua**

#### **(1) Prophetic Destiny**

(a) For whom He foreknew, He also predestined...

1. God's foreknowledge of the ultimate transformation of God's people into the likeness of Christ.

- a) Coming up in chapter nine, what it means to be predestined and God's sovereignty will be front and center to clarify how they relate to ones election and eternal destiny.
- b) The foreknowledge of God is the idea that with Yahweh there is nothing that is unknown: past, present, and future. God is omniscient and operates outside of linear time. **He can report our future as if it already occurred!**
- c) **Here the focus is the prophetic:** we must end up like Him (conformed to His image).
- d) Why? Christ is just the first of many firstborns!

- 1) We are the church of the firstborn and it is at Passover that God separates true firstborn sons of God, from imposters—firstborn sons who are not of God—and also separates all firstborn sons from sons who are not born first.
  - 2) For the full teaching on the Passover and Firstborns, see [The Unveiling](#) (Romans 8:18-22).
  - 3) God has the foreknowledge that this will happen... ***these are [firstborn] sons of God***
2. Paul also sets the stage for the proper understanding of what is coming next, when he will teach us about the complicated dynamic between Jacob and Esau in the next chapter—Jacob steps into the firstborn role over Esau—something God also foreknew.
    - a) If we look backward and forward into Romans we will see the ongoing theme that might be summarized as: **the ultimate destination in our transformation as Christians is to look like Y’shua.**
  3. Imagine this, you are standing in a mirror and you see the face of Christ staring back at you. And imagine further that it is Him they see when the world looks on at you.

- a) Conforming into that image is why we are still here; day-by-day to look more like Him—to act, speak, walk and love like Him. The entire ministry of the Church is to edify itself until we stand in the stature of the perfect man.
- b) Your Undeniable Destiny...when He is revealed, we shall be like Him.

**B. He knows your destiny...**

- (1) You were predestined to be conformed to the image as a firstborn, but how does your transformation occur?
  - (a) From Called to Justified to Glorified!
  - (b) Called (The Parable of the Wedding Banquet):
    - 1. You were invited to be a born-again child of God and accepted the invitation.
      - a) Invitation Accepted! For this teaching predestination, ones election, and eternal destiny, is related “the called.”
      - b) God had foreknowledge of all those who would accept because, again, He is omniscient (all knowing). This does not mean He omni-deterministic (that He determined all for you in advance).

- c) Again, we can tackle what it means to be predestined as such in chapter nine, as it affords ample opportunity to sift through that topic.

(c) Justified

- a) Once the invitation is accepted from those you are authentic, as demonstrated in the Parable of the Wedding Feast, you are justified (you come into right-standing with God).
- b) However if you are an excuse-maker your destiny is different. (The Parable of the Great Banquet):

(d) Glorified

1. Holy is the outcome; sanctification is the process.  
You must jump in and participate.
  - a) As a child of God you are also invited into the sanctification process; you are being made holy, set-apart from the world for God.
  - b) God will keep pressing you in every way necessary until you conform.
  - c) The more you resist the harder He presses. As a Christian, you are set-apart for God, whether you like it or not!
2. It is your ultimate destiny is to express God's glory.

- a) Creation won't be delivered from bondage if you won't be glorious.
- 3. Of course, the final version of the glorified you is when you resurrect in your new permanent, incorruptible, glorified body!
- (2) Input from Pastor Manny Fernandez
  - (a) From Predestined to Glorified
    - 1. "Moreover whom He **predestined**, these He also called; whom He **called**, these He also **justified**; and whom He justified, these He also **glorified**." Romans 8:30 NKJV
    - 2. The Apostle Paul shifts to an aorist verb usage.
      - a) Aorist: (Especially in Greek), and unqualified past tense of a verb without reference to duration or completion of the action.
      - b) This should indicate something to us, not just from a linguistic or literary perspective, but from what Paul intends for us to conclude. We should recognize that these have already been fulfilled in the mind of God (Called, Justified, Glorified), hence, that is why in the preceding verse the Apostle Paul introduces the notion of "God's foreknowledge."

- c) God is not limited to time in a linear fashion as we see time. He knows the end from the beginning.

3. Three concepts... (Called, Justified, Glorified)

- a) With the foreknowledge of God as our perspective, these must therefore encompass and encapsulate the entire message and completion of the salvation and redemption experience for the Christian.

- 1) It is no secret that these three have been at the center of centuries' worth of arguments; disputations have come from every angle.

(b) Called, Justified, Glorified

- 1. **Called:** That is to say, God "invited" someone. The Greek word here is "kaleō," which is the first non-redundant interpretation of the word found in Strong's Concordance. So, God presents an invitation to the unbeliever. It is preponderant (or incumbent) upon the unbeliever to reject or accept the invitation.
- a) In John 1:12, we can see a perfect manifestation of man's free will and God's Sovereignty. "**To as many as received Him,**" deals with the free will of man to receive or to resist. "To them He gave the right to become His children," deals with God's Sovereignty. With these two coupled together at

the moment of surrender, we end up with a born-again individual.

2. **Justified:** Once the individual has been born again, they have also been justified. Justified is the equivalent of saying, “Just as if I never sinned.” God’s righteousness has been imputed to the unbeliever who has recognized the error of their sinful, wicked ways, whereby God has essentially placed a stamp on the person to acknowledge that their justification for their past actions is found hanging on the cross of Christ, never to be tried again for the same crimes; justification is a legal term.
3. **Glorified:** Every human being that has received Messiah-Jesus has already achieved this status in the eternal foreknowledge capacity of God. However, we are still living out the process. We are still in a battle, living in this sinful world, and Jesus requested it remain that way (John 17:15 ESV). The glorified body we are going to enjoy in eternity future, based on our finite perspective, is already in existence in the abstract of God’s perspective. However, this does not negate our witnessing of false converts living under the guise of a fake Christian banner which ultimately

leads to a pre-prescribed Matthew 7:21 ending to all who practice lawlessness.

**Summary:** TO WHAT LENGTH?

### **3. Consider what it cost God to redeem you?**

#### **A. You were bought with a price...**

(1) You are on the winning team!

(a) If you are predestined as His called, justified, and glorified children, then it is safe to say God is on your side!

1. If God is on your side, does it matter who is on the other team?

a) If you think somehow that if the opposing team assembles a strong enough opposition, they will be able to mount an effective attack against you and prevent you from fulfilling both your corporate and individual purpose, then you don't fully appreciate what God has provided for you.

(2) The Price-tag of Redemption

(a) An infinite cost!

1. Do you know your value?

a) It's as if you received a preloaded Visa Gift Card with NO LIMIT on your spending, ever!



- 1) But you shop as if you have a limited budget, worried you can't afford even to fill your gas tank. "Give me twenty on pump number six."
  - 2) No one who understood that they had unlimited funds in their possession would skimp on gas. "Fill it up and fill the tanks of everyone else as well," would be more like it!
- (b) You were bought with a price!
1. The Price: Infinite! *"He who did not spare His own Son..."* Do you know your value?
- (c) Let's discuss how much of a priority you are to God.
1. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.
  2. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son.
  3. He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.
- a) As the burnt offering (see Leviticus 1) He surrendered everything; He literally gave up His form as God and became a human bondservant.
- 1) It is the oldest and most common of the offerings, found as early as the Book of Genesis. This was an offering with the worshipper

voluntarily devoting his whole offering to God. The Burnt Offering (Olah in Hebrew), literally means “to go up.” The whole offering “went up in smoke,” providing a sweet-smelling aroma to the Lord, with nothing returned to the worshipper.

- 2) **You be the burnt offering!** Present your bodies a living sacrifice
- b) As a sin offering (see Leviticus 4) He shed His blood and became the propitiation for your sins. God's prescribed way to show sins being paid for through a death.
  - 1) **You be the sin offering!** Lay down your life for your friends—a sheep for the slaughter.
- c) And as a drink offering (see Exodus 29) He became a vapor and ascended to heaven.
  - 1) **You be the drink offering!** Imitate Paul who, imitated Christ as a drink offering.
- d) Today Y'shua remains at the right hand of His Father until we finish our job—the restoration of all things.

(d) And if you believe God would do all that and somehow He left out something you need to complete the task, you are sadly mistaken.

1. You have everything you need for life and godliness right now, so get to work!

**B. You have the power of the universe in the palm of your hand...**

(1) Have you treated the Bible casually, like any other app on your mobile device, or any other book in your collection of stories?

(a) A compilation of powerful reasons to make God's Word your number one priority!

1. Summary: reasons to make God's Word your number one priority!

a) God values His Word above everything! Y'shua is God's living Word. To know it is to know Him!

b) A man is blessed when he loves God's Word and focuses on it all day long. Whatever he does will prosper.

c) God's Word will empower a man to remain pure and to receive God's blessings.

d) A man is blessed when he obeys God's Word. It is proof that He is seeking God with his whole heart.

- e) When a man finds direction in God's Word and is inspired to obey it, he lives a life without guilt and shame!
- f) A man who heeds God's Word is a man who lives a sanctified life. It is not possible otherwise!
- g) When a man does not stray from God's commandments, his whole heart is dedicated to and directed by God.
- h) When a man's heart is washed with God's Word, he can choose NOT to sin!
- i) When you know God's Word, you can manage your whole life by abiding in it.
- j) Read it continuously and you will gain reverence for God, which is how you gain the wisdom of God.
- k) It will allow you to remain humble and empower you to never stray from God's path.
- l) God's Word will fuel a long prosperous life!
- m) God's Word is the single most useful resource you will ever have.
- n) It's God's direct inspiration to mankind.
- o) It is valuable for its divine teaching; it is useful to convict and correct sin; to instructs you in the right

way of living; and to prepare godly people in every way to fulfill their purpose in God!

- p) **And as we know... “...all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”**

### C. Next...

- (1) Next we will explore all the opposing forces that you will face when you serve God with your whole heart, and you will come to the conclusion that in the end NOTHING can come between you and your loving Father.

## QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. **“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”** Romans 8:28 NKJV

- A. What does it mean to love God and to love your neighbor?  
(See: Mark 12:29-31; Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Leviticus 19:17-18; John 14:15; 1 John 5:2-3; 4:20-21; James 5:19-20)
- B. What does it mean to be “the called?”
- C. What does it mean to walk in God’s purpose for your life?  
Think both corporately and personally. (See: Psalms 139:13-17; Jeremiah 29:11; Ephesians 2:10)

**2. God planted seeds of purpose in your heart and your job is to search them out, to recognize them, water them, and cultivate them.**

A. Use Psalms 37:4-5 to describe what that means.

**3. You must do something that is completely counterintuitive to make pleasing God and walking in His purpose top priorities.**

A. What is that according to Matthew 16:24-25?

B. How can you be certain you are literally God's fingerprint, a one-of-a-kind piece of divine artwork? (See: Psalms 139:14; Ephesians 2:10)

**4. You were born an original; don't die a copy! And that will require two things, the proper perspective and the proper motivation.**

A. What is the proper perspective? (See James 4:13-15)

B. What is the proper motivation? (See: I Corinthians 9:24-27; I John 2:15)

**5. The foreknowledge of God is the idea that with Yahweh there is nothing that is unknown: past, present, and future. God is omniscient and operates outside of linear time. He can report our future as if it already occurred!**

A. How do we know this is true? (See: Jeremiah 1:5; Psalms 139:13-17; I Peter 1:1-2)

B. How is this described in Romans 8:29?

**6. If we look backward and forward into Romans we will see an ongoing theme: the ultimate destination in our transformation as Christians is to look like Y'shua.**

A. How do the following passages affirm this? (See: Romans 6:4-22; 13:14)

**7. Conforming into the image of Christ is why we are still here; day-by-day to look more like Him—to act, speak, walk and love like Him. The entire ministry of the Church is to edify itself until we stand in the stature of the perfect man.**

A. How do the following passages affirm this? (See: Romans 8:16-17; Ephesians 4:11-16; II Corinthians 3:18; I John 2:5-6; 3:1-3)

**8. You were predestined to be conformed to the image as a firstborn, but how does your transformation occur?** (See Romans 8:30)

A. Use the sermon notes to help your answer.

**9. How do the following parables warn of the consequences for an unwillingness to walk in your calling from God?**

A. The Parable of the Wedding Banquet (Matthew 22:1-14)

B. The Parable of the Great Banquet (Luke 14:16-24)

**10. If God is on your side, does it matter who is on the other team?**

- A. See Romans 8:31 and write a short essay to explain your answer.
- B. Use the following passages to help: I John 4:4; I Samuel 24:6; John 19:10-11; I Corinthians 10:13

**11. You were bought with a price! Explain the price-tag for your redemption.**

- A. Use the following passages: (See: Romans 8:32; I Corinthians 6:19-20; John 3:16-18; I John 4:7-11; Romans 3:25)
- B. If you believe God would do that for you, but somehow leave out something you need to complete the task, you are sadly mistaken. Please explain. (See: II Peter 1:3; I Corinthians 2:12; Ephesians 1:17-20)

**12. You have the power of the universe in the palm of your hand... Have you treated the Bible casually, like any other app on your mobile device, or any other book in your collection of stories?**

- A. Write a compilation of powerful reasons to make God's Word your number one priority! (See: John 1:1-4, 14; Psalms 1:1-3; 119:9-11; 138:2; Deuteronomy 17:18-20; Proverbs 1:7; II Timothy 3:14-17)