Portion:

SCRIPTURES

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

Title:

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

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) 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. "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
 - 3. "If you love Me, keep My commandments." John 14:15 NKJV
 - 4. "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

- 5. "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
- 6. "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." I John 4:20-21 NKJV
- 7. "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
- 8. "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
- 9. "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
- 10. "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
- 11. "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
- 12. "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
- 13. "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
- 14. "For we are **God's masterpiece...**" Ephesians 2:10 NLT
- 15. "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

- 16. "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 NKIV
- 17. "**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
- 18. "...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
- 19. "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 angeles to stop His arrest (Matthew 26:47-56)], He is able to aid those who are tempted." Hebrews 2:10, 17-18 NKJV
- 20. "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
- 21. "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. "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
- 3. "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
- 4. "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." I Peter 1:1-2 NKJV
- 5. "**For as many as** are led by the Spirit of God, **these are [firstborn] sons** of God." Romans 8:14 NKJV
- 6. "But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become **the firstfruits of those** who have fallen asleep." I Corinthians 15:20 NKJV
- 7. "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
- 8. <u>Backward:</u> "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
- 9. <u>Forward:</u> "But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts." Romans 13:14 NKJV
- 10. "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
- 11. "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

- 12. "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.

 " Il Corinthians 3:18 NKJV
- 13. "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
- 14. "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

(c) Justified

- 1. "Therefore, having been **justified by faith,** we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ," Romans 5:1 NKJV
- 2. "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
- "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. "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

- 4. "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
 - "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. "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
 - (b) Called, Justified, Glorified
 - 1. "To as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become His children." John 1:12

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!
 - "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?" Romans 8:31 NKJV
 - 2. "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
 - "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)
 - 4. "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
 - 5. "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
 - 6. "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
 - (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 NKIV
 - (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
 - 3. "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
 - 4. 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
 - 5. "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

- 6. "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
- 7. 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
- 8. "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
- 9. "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
- 10. You be the drink offering! "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ." I Corinthians 11:1 NKJV
- 11. "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
- 12. "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
- 13. "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
 - "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
- 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!
 - "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 NKIV
 - 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 NKIV
 - 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." Il Timothy 3:14-17 NKJV

9. 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