

all in

"yet indeed i also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom i have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that i may gain Christ." phil 3:8

the term "all in" can mean a few things, but when used in a gambling sense it means that one is betting all they have left, nothing held back. that's what our Lord wants from each of us. He doesn't expect us to be good enough or worthy enough or even holy enough. He's going to see that we become all those things, but for now His grace will carry it for us. He just wants us to be "all in" for Him.

i just got finished reading the following headline: "insanely rich and famous arnold schwarzenegger says it's 'sad' that 'we have to die,' reveals that 'i know people feel comfortable with death, but i don't' ." rightly he should feel uncomfortable with it because judgment awaits us all. only those who should be "comfortable" with death know they have a better promise waiting for them. "for if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's." rom 14:8 they are "all in."

in one sense faith is gambling. to us who choose to believe, it is a sure bet. yet faith is still all we have to bet with. for "faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." heb 11:1 faith may be confirmed and often is in many ways,

yet faith must always remain faith, without which it is impossible to please God. i would hasten to add that God cannot lie and will never falter on His promises.

essentially, we have bet our life and all our dreams of what might be. that's what esther did when she went in to the king unrequested. "and so i will go to the king, which is against the law; and if i perish, i perish!" est 4:16 that's what shadrach, meshach, and abed-nego did when they were willing to face the lion's den rather than bow to another god; likewise daniel and the firey furnace.

all these had found the pearl of greatest price and sold all to possess it. they did not even know the Jesus we know and yet by faith they received the deliverance His blood would purchase for them. talk about faith. it is now our time. our "faith eyes" allow us to see Him who is once again invisible to human eyes. it takes the faith eyes others have always had to use.

we are now bond-servants of our Lord and it is Him alone we seek to please. times when our faith eyes are clear enough we can reach into that invisible realm and pull something wonderful back into this realm. faith become the tangible now.

to see the unseeable. to know the unknowable. to believe for the unbelievable. when circumstances are staring you right in the face, you steadfastly maintain - and proclaim that belief. to do otherwise would allow doubt to become a parasite to your faith, slowly eating it away. "for let not that man suppose

that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways." james 1:7-8

and yes, there are occasions when faith "appears" unjustified. in those times we acknowledge the sovereignty of God, knowing that He is working all things together for our good and His glory. it does not abate from our belief in His willingness or His ability. we remain all in.

our Lord Jesus Christ was certainly all in for us. this entire earthly domain was once offered to Him by it's ruler and He turned it down for by faith He saw a brighter kingdom; a freedom and fulfillment only His shed blood could purchase. He suffered outside the gate that He might obtain the keys of that kingdom; keys which He has willing given to us - to us who are all in.

"enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it." matt 7:13-14 the entrance to that narrow gate becomes visible and the path secured to those who are all in.

"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. finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that day, and not to me only but

also to all who have loved His appearing."