

**All In**  
**May 4, 2014**  
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Back on Resurrection Sunday we reviewed just some of the mountain of evidence revealing the literal bodily resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I asked you three questions, the first of which was, “Do you believe it? Do you really believe in the literal bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ?” This question was simply an intellectual one.

The second question was more of a heart question: “Do you want Jesus in your life?”

The facts and the evidence pretty much determine the answer to the first question; the evidence is indeed overwhelming; it is an indisputable historical fact that Jesus Christ rose from the dead.

The second question is about a choice you must make. You know Jesus is real, you know the grave could not hold Him and... you know you need Him...but do you WANT Him in your life?

This is a question that, un-acted upon, will find the Lord going right on without you. He loves

us but He doesn't really need us. It is we who need Him!

The third question really only applies to those who answered question # 2 with a genuine 'from the heart' "YES."

Will you allow the Lord Jesus to open your understanding?

The process of the Lord opening the understanding of someone who is ready and desiring to learn of Him is amazing to behold.

For many of you I have sat across the table and watched the Lord peel back the layers of blindness as one truth after another becomes a part of you.

Then to watch you place your trust completely in Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins; depending on what you are now sure about.

Oh, but it gets even better...

As the Lord continues to open your understanding you are led by the Holy Spirit to be baptized and become a part of the Church.

The more you grow and the more you learn, the more you realize the size and magnitude of who you are and what you really do have in Jesus Christ.

(Oh, yes, I do have the best job in the world!)

Today's message consists of one question and it goes out to you who know you are saved, you know you are going to heaven and perhaps now understand or are very close to understanding the magnitude of who you are and what you have in Christ.

Today's question is "Are you All In?"

I now want to read to you a Facebook post written by a young man who got saved right here in this Church who is presently off at Bible College preparing himself to become a pastor; who knows, maybe your pastor someday.

"April 16

Thankful today for the life I have in Jesus Christ that I did not deserve. For the One who saved my life, I won't apologize; the same one who lived the life that no one else could; the same one who was beaten, broken, bruised, spat at, mocked, despised and rejected, humiliated and then nailed through His wrists and His feet to a cross for the sins of the world.

The wrath of God was satisfied through Jesus Christ (the word is propitiation, 1 John 2:2).

Jesus' sacrifice wasn't forced upon Him, He willingly took it; not because we deserve it, but because of His unconditional love.

If that doesn't motivate someone to be **all in** for the gospel, I don't know what will.

“But death could not hold Him; 3 days and 3 nights later He rose from the dead proving He was more powerful than sin and death itself; proving He is the One True God. Now where's death's sting? Our Savior is risen and alive today!

Those who will repent (Greek word "metanoeo"; change their mind that leads to a change of actions; stop trusting in what you were trusting in before) and put their faith and trust in Jesus for salvation, will have everlasting life and be saved from the penalty of sin (hell). We need to always remember our God is not dead! **As for me, I am all in.** Resurrection Sunday soon!”

**Isaiah 53:5** But he was wounded for our transgressions, *he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*

**John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**John 1:14** And the Word was made 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.

**1Corinthians 15:55-57**

55 O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave,  
where *is* thy victory?

56 The sting of death *is* sin; and the strength  
of sin *is* the law.

57 But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the  
victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

As many of you know, “All in” is a poker term which means you bet everything you have on the table. Now, I don’t recommend poker as a wholesome Christian activity; not so much because of the gambling aspect - which can’t be very good for anyone - but mostly because to be good at it, you must become an efficient deceiver and I think we all have too much exposure to that as it is.

In the standard five-card poker game there is one hand that cannot be beaten: it is called a Royal Flush. A Royal Flush is all the top cards of a single suit in order: Ace, King, Queen, Jack and 10.

The calculated odds of drawing such a hand are approximately 1 in 650,000.

As I think about it, this is probably about the same ratio as those who genuinely know the Lord Jesus to those in the world who do not.

As many of you know, I am a fan of old westerns; particularly the old TV shows. One of those old television series starred James Garner in a western called Maverick. Maverick was a gambler and spent most of his time

hanging out in saloons. (Which simply proves that every modern generation has had its bad TV!)

When I was a small boy, there were not many toys or frills in life. One Christmas, my oldest sister Owena, who had gotten married and left home before I was born, sent me a double holster set of Maverick cap guns. I'm about to be 64 and I don't suppose I will ever forget those Maverick cap guns!

Now, Maverick was a careful gambler; he always kept a thousand dollar bill pinned in the lining of his coat; just in case.

There is an old saying most of you know that says in life, you must simply play the hand you are dealt.

If that be true, let me describe the hand that the truly saved have been dealt.

If you are truly born again, (and I say 'if', because obviously most are not), here is basically what you have: you've got three stacks of chips on the table and one of those large bills inside your coat...you take a look and you can hardly believe your eyes; you have been dealt a royal flush...What are you going to do?

Are you just going to sit there and count your chips or are you going to go 'all in'?

So what does it really mean to go 'all in'?

Stack of chips #1:

## I. All In with your time.

*A. Time is at least one of the elements life is made of.*

1. Your present life is that space of time from when you were born until you die.
2. This line illustrates your life.

0\_\_\_\_\_now\_\_\_\_\_death.

3. If you are saved, there is a time - somewhere between childhood and now - that you understood the gospel and placed your trust in Jesus to save you from your sins.

0\_\_\_\_\_x\_\_\_\_\_↓\_\_\_\_\_now\_\_\_\_\_death.

4. Being 'all in' with our time means we serve the Lord 24-7; not just an hour or two on Sunday.

**1Corinthians 10:31** Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

## 5. Ephesians 5:15-17

15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,

16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord *is*.

6. 'All in' means that from the time you wake in the morning until you pass out from exhaustion at night, the will of God takes precedence over your schedule and every activity in your day.

7. From the time you got saved until now, would you say you have been 'all in' for Jesus with your time...or not?

0\_\_\_\_\_x\_\_\_\_\_ ↓ \_\_\_\_\_ now\_\_\_\_\_ death.

8. So what are you going to do with the rest?

0\_\_\_\_\_x\_\_\_\_\_ ↓ \_\_\_\_\_ now-----death.

Are you going to go 'all in' or are you just going to sit there counting your chips like you've been doing?

*B. You said you gave your life to Jesus.*

1. Let us clarify that; first of all, no one can give their life to Jesus until after they are saved.

2. When you got saved Jesus gave life to you, not the other way around!

3. Jesus said: **John 10:10 ...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.**



4. But now you actually have a life to give; and time being the stuff that life is made of...what are you going to do with what you have left?

Another element of your life is your talent. Are you all in with your talent, which we will call that second stack of chips.

## **II. All In with your talent.**

*A. You were created FOR JESUS not for the world.*

### **1. Colossians 1:16-18**

16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, *whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:*

17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence.

### **2. 1Corinthians 6:19-20**

19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

3. **1Corinthians 7:23** Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

*B. What does it mean to be 'all in' with your talent? (Here are some scriptures that apply.)*

1. **Ephesians 3:21** Unto him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

2. **Ephesians 2:19-22**

19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner *stone*;

21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto a holy temple in the Lord:

22 In whom ye also are builded together for a habitation of God through the Spirit.

3. **Galatians 5:13** For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only *use* not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

*C. Our talents are given to us from the Lord.*

1. **1Corinthians 4:7** For who maketh thee to differ *from another*? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive *it*, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received *it*?

2. **James 1:17** Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

3. God did not give you your talent to serve or entertain the world; He gave it to be used FOR HIM!

4. **James 4:4** Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

Another element of your life is what you have; that third stack of chips is your finances. Are you all in with your treasure?

### **III. All In with your treasure.**

*A. Many Christians are not only 'not all in' with their treasure; they are robbing God of the tithe that is not theirs to keep in the first place.*

1. You will notice there are now cameras up all throughout the building.

2. That is because we have had some break-ins; another attempted break-in just this week and someone has regularly been taking what is not theirs to take from the building.

3. You are probably thinking, “How low can you get; stealing from a Church?”

4. I expect God’s opinion of it is much like yours, as a matter of fact:

5. Here is what He says:

**Malachi 3:8** Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

*B. Oh, but it is not just the tithe that belongs to God; it is all His; He bought us, remember?*

1. Does that mean that I am to bring all I make to the Church?

2. No, it means that after I FIRST bring God His tithe and my offerings to honor Him, that He has a list of specific good things that I am to do with the remaining 70 something or 80 something percent.

3. Let me read you a story:

**Luke 9:12-17**

12 And when the day began to wear away, then came the twelve, and said unto him, Send the multitude away, that they may go into the towns and country round about, and lodge, and get victuals: for we are here in a desert place.

13 But he [Jesus] said unto them, Give ye them to eat. And they said, We have no more but five loaves and two fishes; except we should go and buy meat for all this people.

14 For they were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, **Make them sit down by fifties in a company.**

15 And they did so, and made them all sit down.

16 Then he took the five loaves and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed them, and broke, and gave to the disciples to set before the multitude.

17 And they did eat, and were all filled: and there was taken up of fragments that remained to them twelve baskets.

4. How many of you actually believe this literal historical account in scripture? Yes?

5. You mean to tell me that you really believe this yet you are not willing to faithfully give and thereby turn the handling of the rest over to the One who made two loaves and five fishes go more than far enough to feed 5,000, plus the women and kids?

6. I have seen what Jesus does with what I have left; it is amazing!

**IV. What about, like Maverick, that ‘just in case’ reserve inside your coat?**

*A. In your case, that would be **your heart!***

1. **Mark 12:30** And thou shalt love the Lord thy God **with all thy heart**, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: **this is the first commandment.**

2. **2Chronicles 16:9** For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of *them* whose heart *is* perfect toward him...

*B. You will never be 'all in' until first, God has your heart.*

1. That being true, there can only be one reason you are not 'all in'.
2. You said you gave your heart to Jesus; if that was true, when did take it back?
3. To see where your heart is all you have to do is to look in your checkbook.

Jesus said:

**Matthew 6:21** For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

**In Conclusion:**

**I know you probably think that someone like Justin is not the normal Christian; that he is rare and unusual.**

**After all there are lots of Christians like me who are not 'all in'.**

**Perhaps that is true, however, you are just not thinking straight. You need to look at this from a perspective of reality.**

**Would a normal person hold a Royal Flush  
and not be 'all in'?**

**Justin is the normal one! You need to  
become normal!**