***You’ve Got God-mail***

***Is God Trying To Tell Us Something?***

***Reading His G-mail***

***“You’ve Got 7 God-mails:”***

***G-mail #5***

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ategorizing people is an American pastime, not just for researchers, retailers, manufacturers and marketers. We *all* do it, don’t we? The buzzword for it now is “profiling.”

Bobb Biehl, an ace organizational thinker and executive mentor, says: (a) 15% of us are goal-driven, (2) 80% are problem-solvers and (3) only 5% are opportunity-seekers.

Columnist Dave Barry might say that the gung-ho **Problem**-solver is apt to tackle *two* problems at *once* by taking Sominex and ExLax the *same* night! An **Opportunity** freak wisecracks to the pilot as he hustles off the plane, “Did we land, or were we *shot* down?” And a **Goal**-setter in Biloxi hopes to win Mississippi’s License Plate Slogan Contest with this line: “Come Feel Better About Your Own State.”

Today our **Goal** is to flesh out another of the *Top Seven Things God Is Trying To Tell Us.* Our **Problem** is staying awake long enough to remember which of the seven we’ve covered. The **Opportunity** is tying them to what we’ve been hearing from Jeff Kemp about worldviews which, by definition, address four questions:

1-How’d the universe get here? 2-What went south? 3-Is there a solution? 4-What’s our purpose for living? Today …. the solution.

To date, we’ve discussed the following four statements that God might make to us if He could escape His office for two hours at noon, afford to park at Pacific Place, then cough up $10 for lunch:

**(G-mail #1) “I’m here. Accept no substitutes.”**

**(G-mail #2) “I made everything, you included.”**

**(G-mail #3) “Like it or not, I’m in control.”**

**(G-mail #4) “You’re born as a sinner, sentenced to suffer God’s wrath. So, Jack, you need a Savior.”**

Let’s read how Paul describes Jesus and summarizes what His first four G-mails mean in Colossians 1:15-23 (p. 875).

In short, God wants us to know that He exists, that He’s the Designer-Creator-Sustainer of the universe, that He rules over the past, present and future, and that, due to the “original sin” of Adam and Eve, from whom we all descended, we’re fatally flawed and need one mega Fix, or else we’ll suffer the consequences of our sin by languishing forever, after death, in fiery, violent, unimaginable torment which the Bible calls hell.

Grim, huh? But does God leave us hopeless like some dumped and “Trumped” Apprentice? Not! Because He has a God-sized love for you and me, and wants to tell us:

**(G-mail #5) “My Son Jesus completely paid the penalty for your sins -- *all* of them!”**

The week leading up to Easter Sunday forever changed the course of human destiny, even splitting in half our calendar. Jesus, the second member of the Trinity, spoke the world into existence in six days, then in three more died and rose again to sub for us sinners, leaving His own blood-stained proof that He is, as advertised, fully God, fully Man. The Bible says only He qualified as the perfect Sacrifice required as payment-in-full for all of our sins.

Let’s read some Scriptural snippets about this pivotal week that features Jesus’ welcome to Jerusalem, the religious fathers’ plot to kill Him because He claimed to be their long-prophesied Messiah, Jesus’ six trials, His cruel death and His miraculous reappearance.

**Let’s read:**

**Mark 11:15-19 (p. 754) The sinister plot thickens. QUESTION: Why would the most devoted, most religious people fear the very Messiah they’d been expecting for centuries, then accuse Him of blasphemy and treason?**

**Mark 14:10-11, 17-21 (p. 757) Judas cashes in. QUESTION: Why would one of Jesus’ inner circle sell Him down the Jordan (Psalm 41:9-13, Isaiah 53:1-6)?**

**Mark 14:32-36 (p. 757) Jesus agonizes. QUESTION: Could Jesus have said “no” to the cross? Explain.**

**John 18:1-11 (p. 806) “Keystone Kops” QUESTION: Why did Jesus have to keep His word (John 6:39, 17:12)?**

**Mark 15:1-15 (p. 758) Jesus takes a killer’s (and our) place on the cross. QUESTION: How does peer pressure impact our behavior and belief in God?**

**Matthew 27:32-54 (p. 742) That Lonesome Highway. QUESTION: What does it take for most people to come to the same conclusion as the Roman guards?**

**John 20:1-30 (p. 808) You can’t keep a God-man down. QUESTION: Where are you and I mentioned in the Bible?**

Let’s get the significance of the resurrection, in Romans 1:1-4 (p. 836) and 1 Corinthians 15:1-7, 12-14 (p. 856).

Just as Jesus’ accusers did, you and I, having been presented with the facts about Jesus, must decide for ourselves who He is. Our options: 1-He’s either a world-class liar, 2-a raving lunatic, or 3-the Lord of life and the universe.

Some say, “I’ll take option #4: Jesus was a good teacher.” Sorry. Good teachers don’t lie, and they aren’t insane.

**Let’s read who Jesus says He is and why He crashed our party in John 8:21-24 (p. 797), John 12:44-50 (p. 802), John 14:1-6 (p. 803) and Acts 4:8-12 (p. 812)..**

***Extreme Court TV***

Easter reminds us that this holy Babe of humble birth in Bethlehem was God-in-the-flesh! But maybe your jury’s still out. Is Jesus the Son of God, the Savior of the world, a liar or lunatic? Pilate’s question is really yours: “What shall I do with Jesus?”

Because each of us was born a full-fledged sinner, we need a rescuer (1 Corinthians 15:22, Ephesians 2:1, Romans 5:17). In His G-mail #5, God is saying, “Because I love you so much, I sent My Son Jesus as payment-in-full for *all* your sins, past-present-future, settling once for all the sin-debt that all mankind owes Me. I now hold nobody’s sins against them!”

In twenty-one years as an NBA stadium announcer I introduced a lot of non-starters who were star “sixth men” like Paul Silas, Kevin McHale, Sam Perkins, Bobby Jones and John Havlicek.

Easter is about God’s Son entering our game to be the Substitute on that angry cross for you and me. If you haven’t welcomed Him into your life on a personal basis, why not tell God now, “Father, I don’t deserve Your love. I’m a sinner; that’s a slam dunk. Thank You for sending Your Son to die for me. Thank You for forgiving me of every one of my sins. Right now, by faith, I’m inviting You to play Center in my life. Teach me how to play on Your team. Because of Jesus and Easter, amen.”

His Deal

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