**You’ve Got God-mail**

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

### Reading His G-mail

### “You’ve Got 7 God-mails:”

**G-mail #6**

H

yperbole aside, today you and I will discover the answer to life’s most *revealing* question.

Jeff Kemp recently helped us formulate a biblical worldview – a framework for making sense of everything, for remaking our broken lives, and recreating our fallen world. It’s God’s account of how things really were, are and will be. It’s our plumb line for godly living because, quite simply, it’s what really matters. And it’s found in God’s answers to four basic questions:

1. Where’d we come from?
2. What went wrong?
3. Is there a solution to our dilemma?
4. Why are we here on earth?

Paul lays out God’s worldview to Athens’ chief governing council, near the Acropolis on “the hill of Ares” (Greek god of war). **Let’s read his stirring oratory in Acts 17:16-28 (p. 826),**

### God Don’t Send No Spam

We’re out to understand what could be the *Top Seven Things God Is Trying To Tell Us.*  To date, we’ve covered these messages from God:

**G-mail #1: “I’m here. Accept no substitute.”**

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.”**

**G-mail #5: “The good news is …. My Son Jesus completely paid the penalty for your sins -- *all* of them!”**

Today we come to ……

G-mail #6: “Nothing but My best for you!”

When you were born, you came into certain assets: life, a name, family, food, shelter -- the foundation for your physical, mental and emotional growth. Without them you’d have little hope for survival.

Likewise, at the moment of your spiritual birth, when you, by faith, entrusted your life to Jesus Christ, God instantly gave you a windfall of spiritual assets (John 3:1-18; Acts 17:28; Ephesians 2:4-10). Just as a newborn’s development requires physical and emotional sustenance, your spiritual growth is handcuffed if you don’t know your standing as a follower of Christ.

At birth you got a bracelet to I.D. who you are. When you welcomed Christ in as your Savior, you also got the Holy Spirit, living in you to lead you to spiritual maturity (Ephesians 1:13-14).

Your status “in Christ” is all a *gift* from God who had said to you, “Adam and Eve blew your first chance to live forever with Me in a perfect world. But I gave you a ‘Mulligan,’ and when you invited Jesus to take the wheel in your life, I adopted you into My eternal family, dropping every barrier between you and Me. From where I sit, you’re now as perfect as my Son, ‘cause when I look at you, I see only Him. ‘In Christ’ – this is now your unearned, undeserved POSITION (Ephesians 1:7, 2:5; Romans 4:5)!” And God promises …

“You’ll experience all I have for you as you increasingly learn about your*Position*. If you see yourself as I see you, not how you may *feel*, then you’ll take on the characteristics of My Son Jesus.

“Knowing your permanent POSITION will improve your roller coaster CONDITION because you can’t *grow* if you don’t *know* (Romans 8:29; 2 Peter 3:18; 1 Corinthians 1:30, John 12:24; Colossians 3:3; Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 1:17-18).

Your eye doc presses your head against those clunky glasses. “On the left do you see the letter P? And on the right, a C? Okay, as they move together, tell me when they’re on top of each other.”

That’s like having your flaky Condition become identical to your immovable Position (Ephesians 4:14-16). Usually you’re pre-occupied with life’s ups and downs, self-absorbed, thinking *you* best tidy up your Condition if you’re ever gonna earn God’s OK (1 Corinthians 2:5). Please, can we solder this baby in for good: God accepts us not based on our *Doing*, but on our *Being* “in Christ.”

If you’re suckered into having to gain God’s approval, Paul says you’ve been sold a bogus, do-it-yourself gospel, a knock-off brand pushed by every scam artist in Borders’ Religion section, and you start doubting your true spiritual Position (Ephesians 4:14-16). Now it’s time to ask yourself the world’s most *revealing* question ….

“Who Am I, *Really*?”

Paul went over the top to make sure that believers know what God says is true of them. It’s golden. **Let’s eavesdrop on one of those moments in Ephesians 1:1-2:10 (p. 869).**

Unbundling Your *Position* Perks

Because God loved you even before Creation, He wanted to close the sin-caused chasm between you and Him. So Jesus came from heaven to be crucified in your place. His sacrifice paid for all your sins in full. And when you, by faith, put your trust in Christ’s standing in for you on the cross, God downloaded an infinite number of benefits to your personal account including:

• When you were spiritually “dead,” God gave you enough saving faith to give your life to Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9).

• After undergoing the mutha of *all* make-overs, you’re now a brand new creation “in Christ,” no longer checked straight through to eternal torment (2 Corinthians 5:17-21).

• The REAL you (your eternal soul) is securely protected by God from being hijacked or destroyed by satan (Colossians 3:1-3).

**•** You’re totally, forever forgiven, completely accepted by God. You’re not on probation, and there’s no small print (Galatians 3:22-26; 1 Corinthians 1:7-9; Colossians 3:3-4; Jude 24; Romans 8:35-39).

• God will NEVER condemn you again for your sin (Romans 8:1).

• God is completely, permanently at peace with you (Romans 5:1-11; 2 Corinthians 5:18-19).

• You’re free from sin’s *power* and *penalty*, and in heaven you’ll also be free from its *presence* (Romans 6:18).

• *Nada* can separate you from God. He’ll never leave you (Hebrews 13:5; Romans 8:35-39; Jeremiah 29:11; I John 3:1-2).

• God has adopted you as His son (1 John 1:1-3; Ephesians 1:5), and you’re a co-heir with Christ (Romans 8:17)! Mind-blowing!

• You’re *complete* in Christ, i.e., there’s nothing else you need to do to win God’s favor or to be assured of heaven (Colossians 2:9-12; Ephesians 1:3; 1 John 5:10-12).

• Everything in your life will ultimately work out for your good and spiritual growth (Romans 8:28). So, you can even give thanks for *everything* that happens to you (1 Thessalonians 5:18)!

• God, the Potter, is shaping you into Christlikeness (Romans 8:29).

• You have “the fruit of the Holy Spirit” at your disposal to tap into: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

• Jesus is in heaven, gussying up your celestial condo (John 14:1-3).

• You’ll be taken to heaven *before* the cataclysmic, seven-year Tribulation begins (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

• The second you die, you’ll be in God’s presence. That’s zero-to-heaven in no seconds flat (2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:21)!

• *All* your *needs* are met from Christ’s account (Philippians 4:19).

• Give all your cares to God, and He’ll give you peace beyond human explanation (Philippians 4:6-7).

• God gives you the desire *and* will to please Him (Philippians 2:13).

• God has let you in on His “secret,” i.e., all things are moving toward a consummating moment when all mankind will finally acknowledge that Jesus is who He claims to be (Ephesians 1:9-10; Philippians 2:10-11).

• Your citizenship is in heaven because God has made you part of Christ’s “body,” and Christ is seated at God the Father’s right hand, so you’re there too (Ephesians 1:19 and 4:14-16; Philippians 3:20).

• He’s given you the Bible, the only Guide you need for faith and living (Ephesians 1:8, 14; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Revelation 22:18-19).

• God’s Holy Spirit resides in you to comfort and guide you (John 14:15-18; Romans 8:26-27).

In light of this, next time your Condition is sputtering, ask, “Who am I *really*?” Then playback a few of your spiritual bennies because “What you *know* trumps what you *feel*,” and who you *really* are is who *God* says you are, not what others –- or even you – say or think.

The *Real* Deal

Have you taken that faith step yet to join God’s team? No? Then ask yourself, “Who am I, *really*?” I’d be less than a friend if I didn’t give you God’s answer.

• The Bible says that even though your sins have been forgiven, and your sin-debt to God paid in full, it still shows as owing until, by faith, you claim your forgiveness. So, as of now, the Bible says you’re still ticketed to an eternity apart from God that’ll be pure hell (Romans 3:23, 6:23; John 5:24).

But, mercifully, the story doesn’t have to end there, and I urge you to complete the transaction while you still can. Why miss heaven when you don’t have to! Just tell God ….

 “God, You’ve been trying to tell me something. I think I’ve finally heard you. Thanks for sending Your Son to die for this sinner. Thanks for pardoning all my sins. Please take the reins of my life. Help me grow in my faith as I focus my life on You. I ask all this in the name of Jesus who saves me. Amen.”

His Deal

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