

# Etoonin' Incorporated - All for the Lord

2019.04.21

Easter Incorporated

XX/154

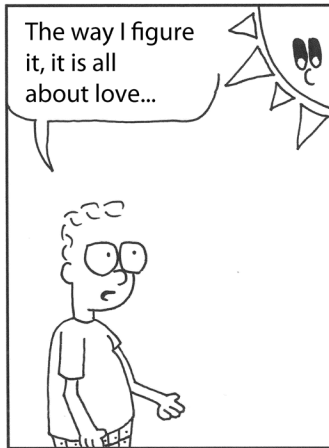
I am very proud of these cartoons because I feel they mix an appropriate dose of humor with Biblical topics that I hope will be accessible to everyone. I actually had some fun drawing these, something I can't say I've felt for a long time. It felt a little bit more like I was drawing them with God, like

the old days. Ideally, I'd like my cartoons to be clever, as in Calvin and Hobbes, but realistically, I think they are closer to Peanuts. They mix sentiment with humor. So, folks, I hope you enjoy this issue of Etoonin'! Toon in, turn on, but don't drop out. Happy Easter! Happy Resurrection Day!

## toon in'...

### Secret Garden

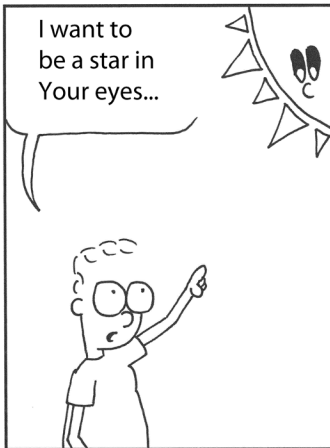
April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019



## toon in'...

### Digging Deeper

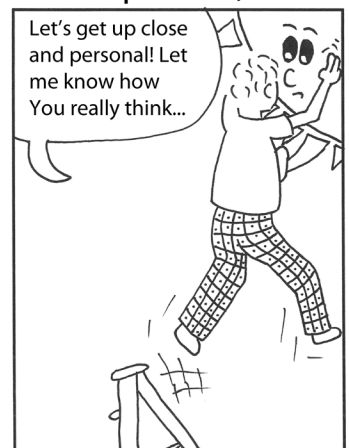
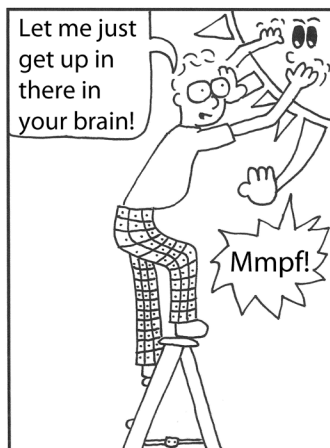
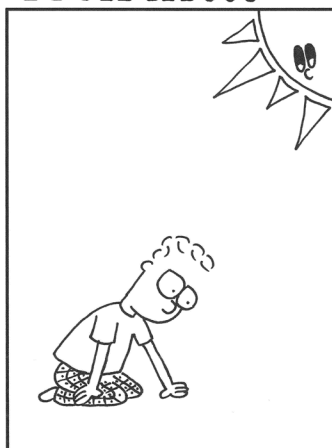
April 3<sup>1/2</sup>, 2019



## toon in'...

### Public Prayer

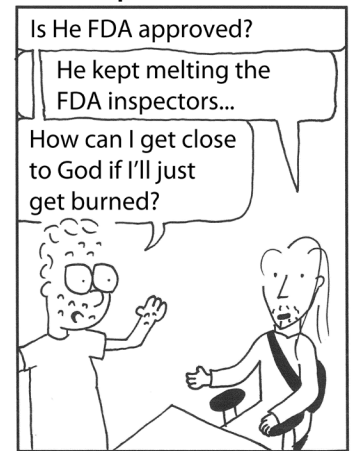
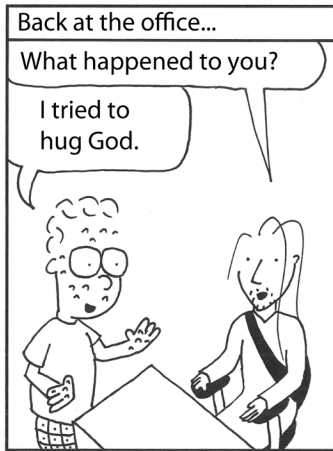
April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019



## toon in'...

### Hot Darn!

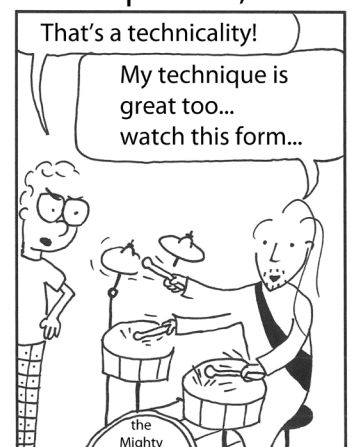
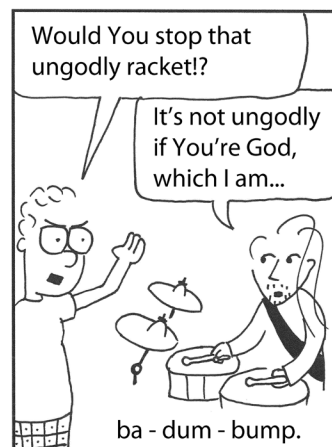
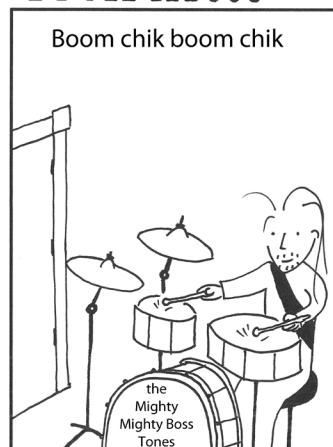
April 14<sup>1/2</sup>, 2019



## toon in'...

### The Concert Series...

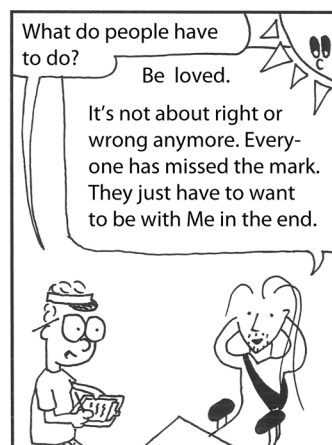
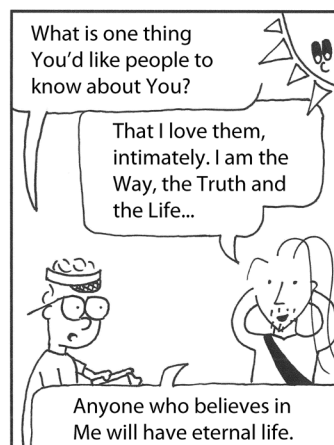
April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019



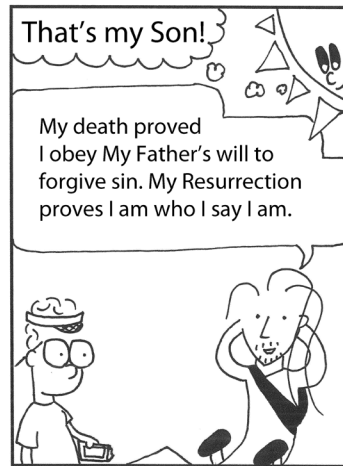
## toon in'...

### The Interview...

April 15<sup>1/2</sup>, 2019







I start at Raytoonin' (Raytheon) the day after Easter (4/22). I am excited! I'm getting my first taste of bureaucracy with all the passwords to set up and training videos to watch. Big change from a five person company. My EndoEvolution coworkers surprised me with a gift card to the Beach Plum, in Portsmouth, NH. I drove up on a warm, sunny Saturday and washed down a lobster roll with a chocolate peanut butter frappe. It was the best lobster roll I've had yet, with a buttered and toasted hot dog roll sans lettuce. A very thoughtful goodbye gift. Then I toured the

city and got these nice shots along the Piscataqua River. The women at my office are very nice. Sharing the faith and praying with three of my coworkers was fun. I worked at Endo for 20 months. The experience I gained directly led to my job at Raytoonin'. As my first order of business, I'll locate the Raytoonin' Bible Study, which used to meet at lunch on Wednesdays. A man needs his allies. On Sunday, I met my newest niece, pictured below. She looks just like her brother did as a baby. It was nice to talk to my SIL and learn who the Kardashians are too.

# Raytoonin'®

## Expect Fun Things™



**My Newest Niece:  
Adriana!**

# THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

I always feel like Jesus is a topic most people don't really want to talk about, even though most people know who He is. I struggle with this: what do people think of Jesus? Why is there so much resistance to Him? What's the big deal?

I wasn't always a Christian. I became one after God saved my life on Feb. 22, 1997. I remember how powerful a delusion I was under: I thought I was Jesus! It was so weird, because I didn't believe in God. How could something delude me so powerfully? Because God saved my life, I went to Church the next Sunday with my Dad. The homily was on John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son so that all who believed in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. I remember the priest saying this was why you see so many 3:16 signs at football games on TV. Under my delusion, I thought this verse was talking about me, but later I realized I couldn't be Jesus because I sinned and Jesus didn't. I also noticed my alarming lack of miracle working power. That Jesus delusion was strong.

I struggle, too, to know that Jesus is real. Why is there no proof that God exists, much less became a Man and lived on Earth? It is so confusing. As a Christian, I want to share with others this simple fact: believe in Jesus and you will live forever. It really is that simple. Heaven is based on your faith, not your works. So there is nothing you need to do or undo in order to go to Heaven. You don't need to be a good person. You don't need to hope that you've done enough good to outweigh your bad. You don't need to fear judgment and condemnation. The prodigal son was welcomed by his Father, though he had squandered his wealth. Why does it feel like turning to God is such a hard thing to do? I want people to know that God loves them, but I have such trouble believing God loves me. God the Father seems impossibly hard. I view him as worse than my own Dad: never happy with me. I believe that God loves us, but why is it so hard to tell others this and have it seem real?

I guess I don't really know. But I do know that God has helped me become a much better person. In 2010, I declared bankruptcy and flew to Denver in the same year. I didn't even pay for my plane ticket: friends treated me. This shows me God's power, that He was able to take a poor, broke man like me and put him on a Rocky Mountain. It was beautiful.

It wasn't always like that. In 2012, God set me out on the hard task of learning how to manage my own finances. I had always thought things were owed to me because I had bipolar disorder. I didn't understand how come I, like everyone else, had to have a job and save money and work for it. But God showed me. It was so painful. At the same time, I was out of work for 6 months and living off a Walk for Hunger sponsored food pantry. When I found work, it was just a crappy minimum wage job. But I ferreted away cash and used it to buy a used car for \$1,500. One job led to another job and many government agencies paid for CAD training and eventually I got back on my feet. Improving my finances improved all my family relationships. People respected the hard work I did. I am one of the 1% that got off SSDI and Section 8 housing. I am an engineer again.

Without all these hard lessons, I don't think I'd be nearly as grateful as I am now. I think about my character when God saved my life: I was a rotten kid. Even for years after He saved me, I clung to the darkness. Even now, I'd rather hide from God. How does this make God's love for us all seem real? I just see how generously He has treated me despite all my sinful tendencies. There is a process called sanctification that really stinks. I think all who choose God go through it. They are gradually made into a better person. It is painful, but I think God does it because He has such a better way to show us. I hardly worry about a person hating me now, but I was afraid of everybody then. That is the peace God brings.

The resurrection of Jesus is also the resurrection of me, not only giving me eternal life, but reviving me to the person God imagined me to be in this life. I do want you to know that God loves you, unconditionally. I do know it is hard to see Him, and harder to trust Him. I'm not going to lie. But I think that if You give Him a chance, God will not disappoint You in the long run. He owns the cattle on a thousand hills. He has a lot of resources to share with you. He deeply cares.

Thank you for reading if you made it this far. I hope these words encourage you this Easter. Jesus is Who it is all about. And the resurrection was the most amazing thing. I think that you can sense miracles in your own life too. I hope you enjoyed this issue of Etoonin' and will consider subscribing and sharing this message with your friends. Love, Jim Bures.

## Stay tooned, my friends...

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