

Etoonin' Incorporated - All for the Lord

2020.12.25

A More Christ Christmas

XXI/164



My tendency is to look at myself, but let's look at Jesus this Christmas. Mary gave birth to Jesus, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, on Christmas. Jesus is Lord over all creation, but He came to Earth as a baby. He came to identify with us. He came to experience life as we experience it too. He knew what it was like to cry as a baby; He knew what it was like to be hungry. He learned to crawl and Joseph and Mary watched as their Son took His first steps. He spoke His first words after listening to His parents coo at Him. He moved around a lot, moving to Egypt until King Herod, who jealously tried to kill Him, died. He was celebrated as a King by the Magi, the wise men, who came to worship Him right after He was born, seeing His star from the East. Jesus was circumcised and presented to God at the Temple, where a man and a woman prophesied about Him and the role He would play throughout history. Jesus was raised Jewish in a cohesive family unit.

Jesus was like us in every way. He had flesh and bones. He needed to clip his fingernails. He sneezed. But unlike us, He never sinned. He was always connected to God because He was God. He knew how to connect with our Heavenly Father. He was filled with the Holy Spirit. But He did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but instead emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. Imagine that, God humbly serving us! Not only does God serve us, but He made us to be like Him. For as John 1 says, "But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God." Jesus gave us the right to become children of God if we just believe in Him. And that belief is not in conjunction with us living a perfect life, because Jesus did that for us. Jesus lived a perfect, sin free life and sacrificed Himself so that we don't have to pay for our own sins. We don't have to pay for them: Jesus paid for them. Not only did Jesus free us from the penalty of sin, He gave us His sinless perfection by justifying us by this faith, this faith in the one and only perfect Man. Believing in Jesus gives us Eternal Life. Knowing the only true God, and Jesus Christ, is Eternal Life.

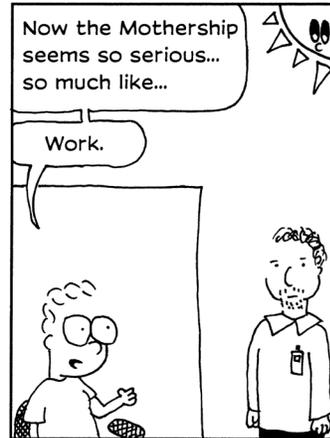
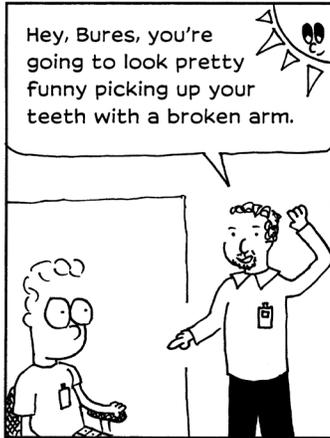
This is why we celebrate Christmas: the perfect Son was born, and He was given to us. Through Jesus comes Eternal Life. What a gift is that! And He was given to us when we didn't even realize we needed Him. That is the most amazing part. God gave Himself to us while we were still sinners. Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven.

Out of the desire to laud this Man more highly than myself, I give you this message on Christmas. My own natural tendency is to elevate myself. With deep sorrow I realize this mistake. What is the chief end of man? The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. And enjoy Him this Christmas, I hope you do! Merry Christmas!

toon in'...

Meanwhile, at work...

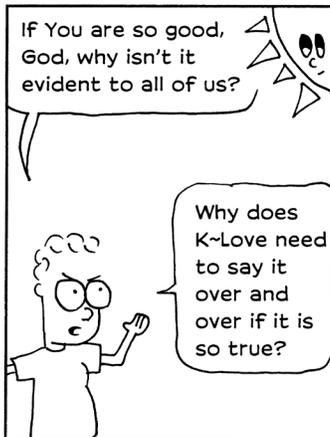
Oct. 18th, 2020



toon in'...

Belly up

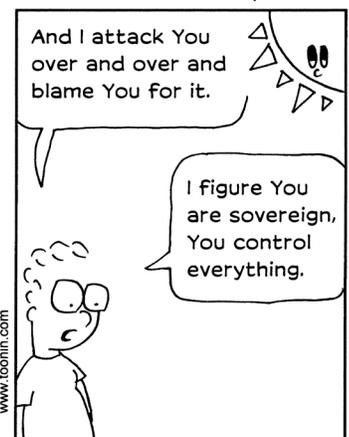
Oct. 24th, 2020



toon in'...

Work is coming around the corner...

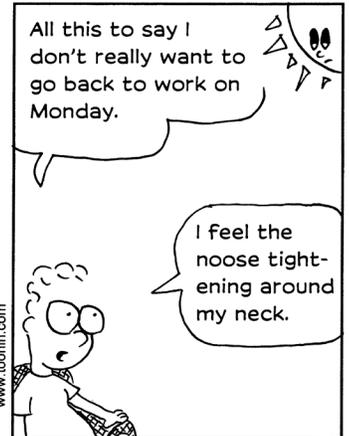
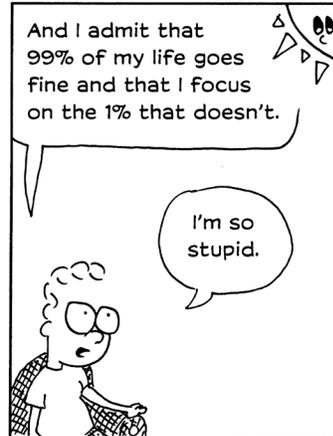
Oct. 24^{1/2}, 2020



toon in'...

A fool and his folly...

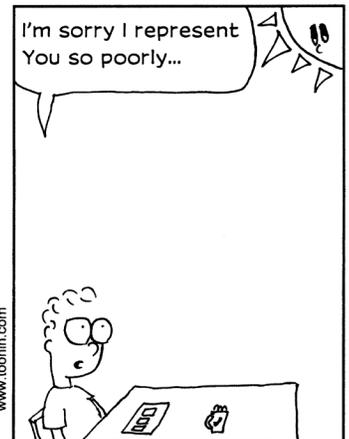
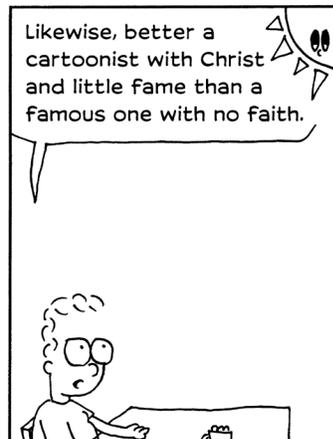
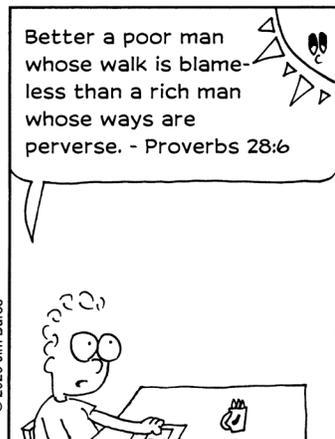
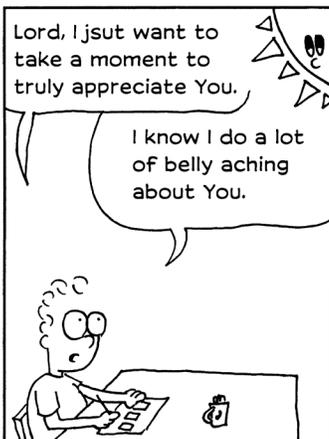
Oct. 24^{2/3}, 2020



toon in'...

All Hail the Chief.

Oct. 25th, 2020



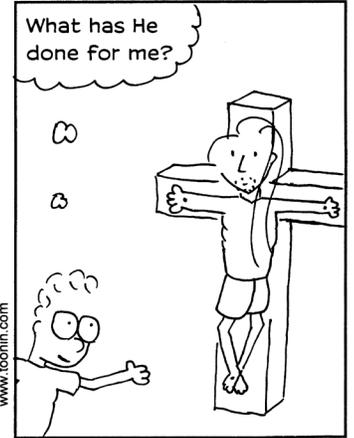
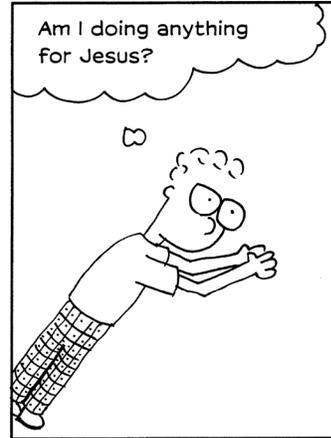
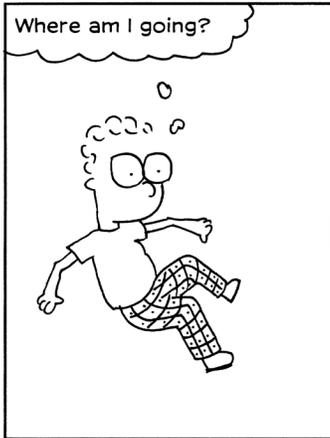
toon in'...

Oct. 31st, 2020



toon in'...

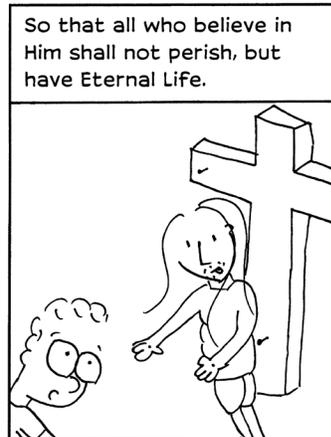
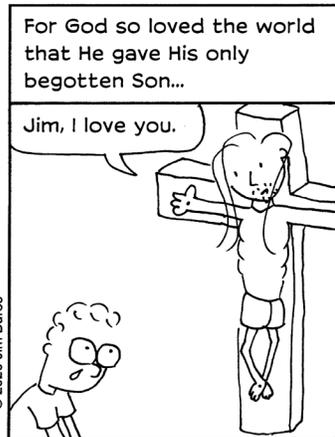
Nov. 1st, 2020



toon in'...

Relief for those that hate their own life...

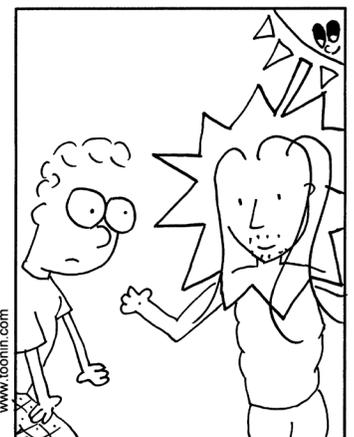
Nov. 1^{1/2}, 2020



toon in'...

I will draw all men to Myself.

Nov. 1^{2/3}, 2020



In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.

~Proverbs 3:6

The Neighbor's House...



I want my life to have deep meaning. I realize that my life's meaning is derived from God and the purposes He ascribes to me. I struggle with this quite a bit. I watched *It's a Wonderful Life* with a friend and it made me cry. I just love the part where George Bailey realizes how much his life is worth as he watches friend after friend pour in money to save him at the end. I like to think about how many lives I have touched as I put myself into his shoes as he realizes the same. As Clarence the angel writes to George, "Remember no man is a failure who has friends." What I want, more than anything, is to create some great work of art, movie, story, song or cartoon that tells such a poignant tale as this movie does. I admire the Kendrick Brothers because they tell very moving stories on film that revolve around faith. It's hard for me because I don't want to just restate the Gospel, I want to portray it in some meaningful, awe inspiring new way. Anything can become an idol and so I often fall into envy of the fame that the Kendrick Brothers enjoy at the hand of their proselytizing. However, the Lord desires that I put Him first. That is the source of their success: they remain close to God. I crave fame so much, but realize it could cause many troubles I am not aware of. I enjoy that God causes even my enemies to live at peace with me. I want fame not to be a burden, so I want to want it on His terms.

I want to create something great, something meaningful and impressive. However, I know myself. I am essentially lazy. Left to my own devices I'd do nothing. I was on medical leave for four months with nothing more than restaurant bills to show for it. Also, I lament my own talent as a cartoonist. It

used to be so much fun to draw them. I know it is God who must ascribe the meaning of my life. Yet if I had to choose, producing music would be my own meaning. To date, I have created six electronic songs and two vocalized ones. I am scared that my musical career might become disenfranchised like my cartoonist career has. However, I've got to try. To that

end, I am 90% on registering for Ableton Live Fundamentals at Berklee Online in January. Your prayers about Berklee might get answered! The class meets once a week and costs \$1,572. This class would enable me to pick up where I left off in 2018. At that time I took classes with MMMMaven. My music is available at www.zedek.com.

