

# Etoonin' Incorporated - All for the Lord

2021.01.17

Aha! 40:15

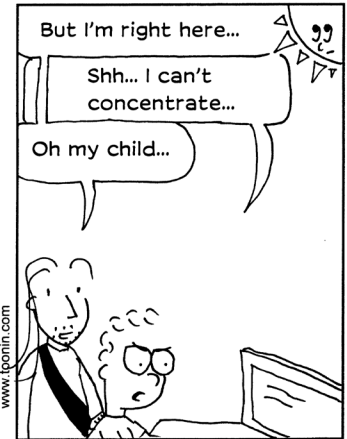
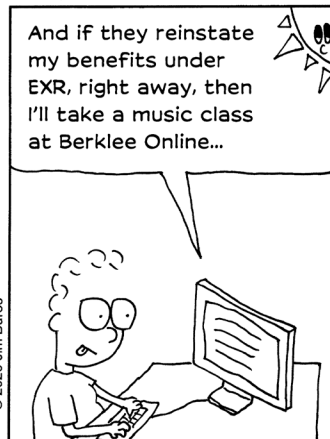
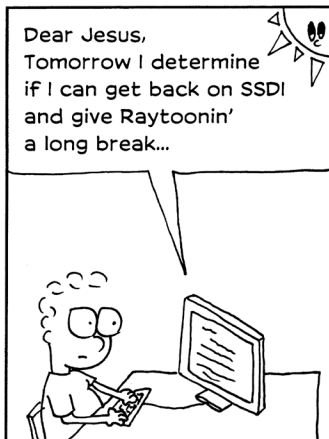
XXII/165

Leave them; they are blind guides.

## toon in'...

Playing out the hand dealt.

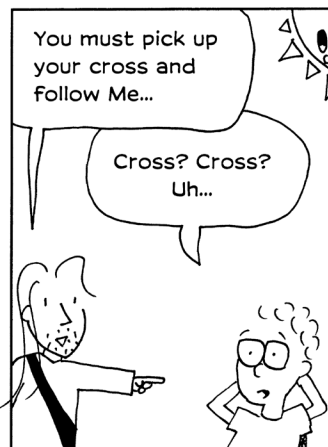
Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021



## toon in'...

Demanding a wage.

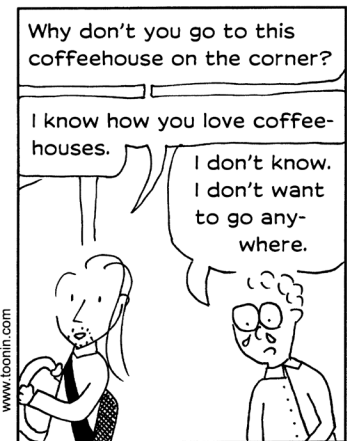
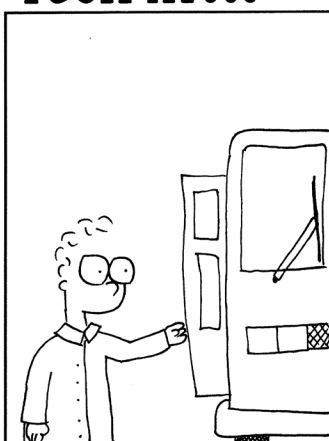
Jan. 11<sup>1/2</sup>, 2021



## toon in'...

Don't miss your connection...

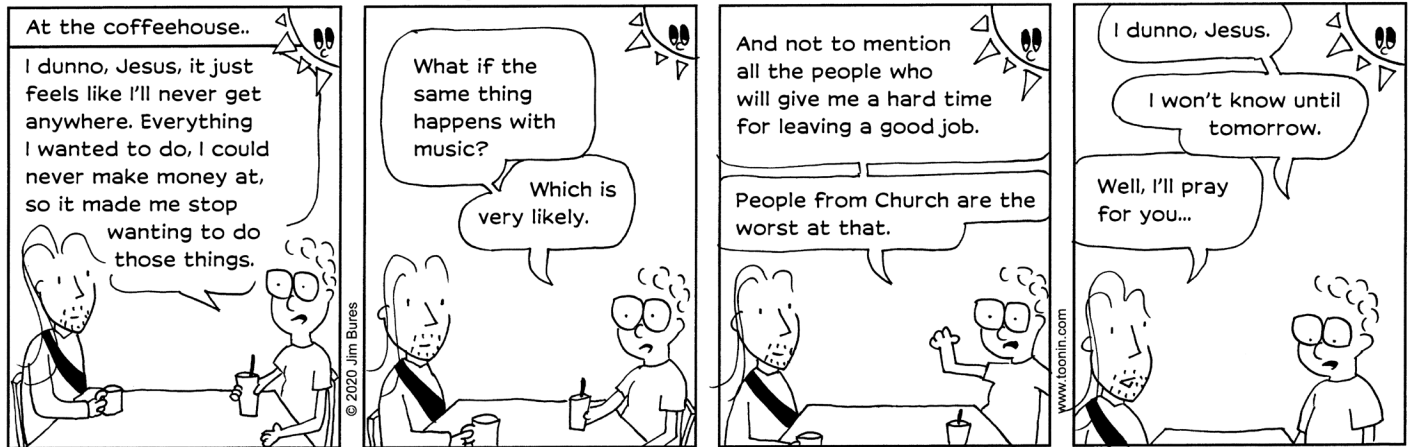
Jan. 11<sup>2/3</sup>, 2021



# toon in'...

Mulling it over coffee.

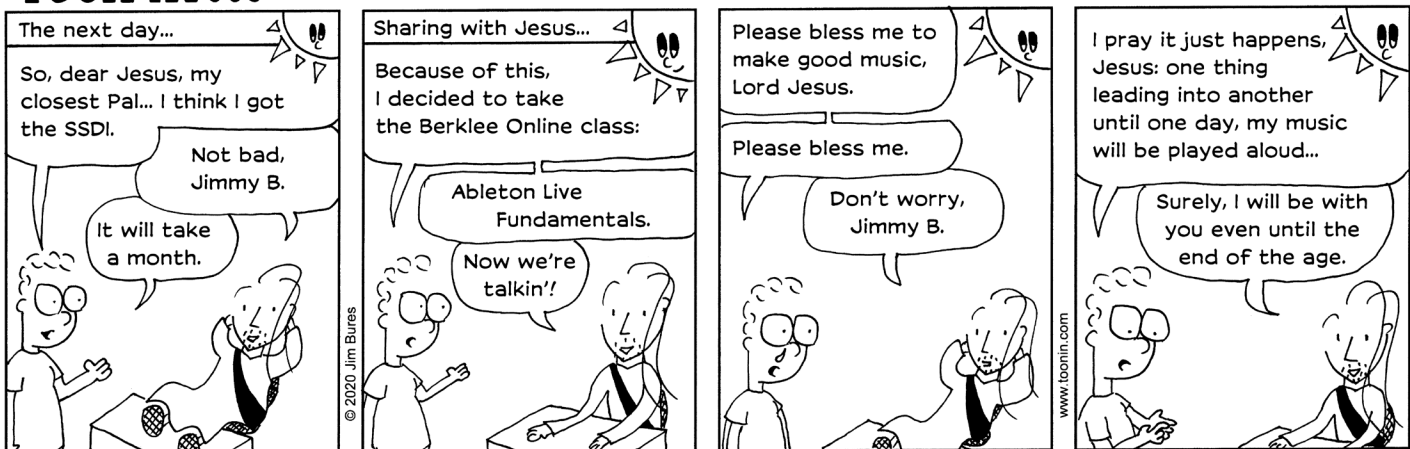
Jan. 11<sup>3/4</sup>, 2021



# toon in'...

When dreams become realities...

Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021



# toon in'...

Giving attention to the throne...

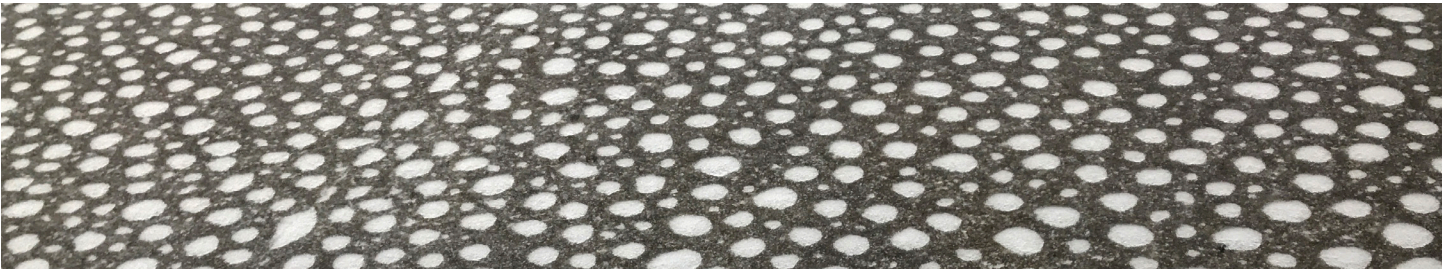
Jan. 12<sup>1/2</sup>, 2021



# My tears have been my food day and night

~Psalm 42:3

---



I'm rich. I don't talk about it often, but I am rich. I am richer than probably 97% of people on this Earth. I have shelter, a working car, a few thousand saved, a computer, an iPhone. I can go out to eat any time I want. I've got it made. I really do. I am also pretty healthy. God blesses a generous person.

I want to talk about God in a way that will bless both Him, me and you. It is hard to do, because I don't really know what to say. I just know it is better to say it with God. I am going back on SSDI, a step backward, because I've had so much trouble at Raytoonin'. This is my fourth medical leave and I just can't conquer the depression and anxiety I feel. I wish I could work to support myself, but it isn't going to happen at this job. Failure is the hallmark of success. Without failure, we would never grow. I have certainly grown a lot in the past ten years. A friend reminded me about how I went to Alaska in 2010. That trip changed my life for quite a long time. It made me appreciate the sunsets. It made me trust Mormons.

God is great. Not because He is so evident in our lives, but because He changes us from within. That is one of the main ways I can tell He exists. I used to be a twisted person. I was depraved. People seem amazed that I used to smoke pot every day. I remember what that was like. My cartoons were good, but they were worldly. They displayed my broken viewpoints. I miss how creative they were. I sometimes wish I could go back, but that would only be a mistake. I know I am better now. I have to believe that God will fix that inner corrupted part of me so I can join Him in Heaven. I despair of being made whole in this life. Why do I long for the days of life without Him? There is something broken about this world in that we don't naturally want Him. It is awe inspiring to know that Jesus will change how we perceive Him so we will be able to thoroughly enjoy Him in Heaven.

I am reminded that God loves to show mercy. Even though my heart is corrupt and I sin every day, God loves to pour mercy on me. That is why Jesus died, so my every sin is paid for. It is hard to believe that God could, in any way, bless a

sinner, but yet He blesses me every day. It is so great that I am no longer slave to my sin. I continue to sin all the time, but now redemption defines me. Hell is no longer my destination, through faith in Jesus and not by my good works. I don't even have to want Heaven to still go there. That is accomplished through God's mercy. I don't even know why He loves me, I feel so broken. God's promises are true, and they play out in real life, not through abstract Bible verses. When He says, "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus," I can point to how I wasn't condemned at Raytoonin' when I admitted to padding my time card. That was a terminable offense, and yet I got to stay. I know that truth. As the Bible says, "When a man's ways are pleasing to the Lord, he makes even his enemies live at peace with him," I recognize how I rarely even have enemies anymore. I can point to the time a machine shop owner chewed me out after I just met him. But by the end of my time at that job, this owner wanted to hire me. That is causing my enemies to live at peace with me.

It is useful to step out of the dark. We are tempted to think our enemies are other people, when really they are the spiritual authorities that control this world: dark, evil forces. These spirits hide themselves and operate in cloaked ways. They avoid being openly known, because they'd lose control. These demons dominate this dark world, and prevent us from seeing Jesus in it. I know these demons better than I know Jesus, because I have a mental illness. Mental illness is caused by demons. In Jesus' day, people knew demons existed: the demons would throw children into the fire. Jesus cast these demons out. I live with demons: they haunt me. I know their actions more than I know Jesus, but that points me to Him. God saved my life quite powerfully, but the mental illness discouraged people from believing me when I spoke of God. Demons don't want people to know God. Demons try to dupe people to go to hell, where there is eternal darkness and pain. It is scary stuff. Demons pit man against God, when really, they are the problem. Demons want people to fight each other and instead of them.



Demons pit Christian against Christian so they will be ineffectual at proclaiming the Gospel, that faith in Jesus gives Eternal Life. These demons discourage people from faith.

I remember, over 10 years ago, lying on my bed in my condo. I thought to myself about all the pain I had known. And I thought about how I could suffer more, like torture, if I followed God closer. But I chose to follow Him anyway. I concluded that He would give me the strength if I ever got tortured. My life was awful at the time, but it only got better. I have not known anything like torture. In fact, I have known incredible blessing. That is how demons work: they taunt you with fear, when really they have nothing. They are but smoke and mirrors. Proverb 28:1 rings true: "The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion." God is good and blesses His people, even though I thought I'd have all these problems. It's a shame that demons can make us expect bad things from God. God loves to show mercy. Even to sinners. It is amazing.

Well, thank you for reading this far. I never know if people read what I write. I know I need to bless people, and not just talk about myself. I know, too, that I am rich. Not only in the top 3% of the world's wealth, I am rich because I have great friends like you. In the movie, *It's a Wonderful Life*, Clarence the angel wrote in George Bailey's book: "Remember no man is a failure who has friends." I have so many friends. Relationships are how God also shines: He can radically improve any relationship. I firmly believe that. Relationships are one of the only things that go with us into Heaven. I believe relationship is what Gods wants with us.



So, yeah, I signed up for the music class with Berklee Online. I sent out a somewhat snarky email about this to all my contacts. I was hurting. But I don't feel hurt right now. I think I am most hurt by the demons, but it also sometimes bothers me how people react. Especially people at Church. I am tired of people from Church asking about work. It really, truly aggravates me. They, of all people, should realize that our identity is not found in work, but in our Savior, Jesus Christ. The sermons are all about that.

I wish I had learned Spanish. Don't you wish you knew Spanish? I learned French, which is elegant, but Spanish is spoken widespread. My therapist told me to put it on my bucket list. My bucket list now has two items: make music and learn Spanish, ha. I'd also like to fly to the Midwest and drive around seven states. I've seen 40 out of 50 so far.

Another, more serious thing on my bucket list is to write a short story or book that gets formed into a movie. I admire entertainment of all kinds. Music is my favorite, obviously, but I really enjoy a well crafted movie. The Adjustment Bureau is one example: a secular version of the theological debate between predestination and free will. It stars Matt Damon, who reminds me of my childhood friend, Tom. This movie is loosely based on a short story, *The Adjustment Team*, by Philip K. Dick. I lack courage to act and I don't have time to learn to direct, but I could write a short story. My writing is generally autobiographical, but I want to write fiction, so this is a stretch goal. But if I put God in the bucket with the list, maybe it will happen! Writing a story or book that becomes a compelling movie would be so rewarding.

Wow: my resolve was just tested with a \$900 pharmacy bill. I didn't see that coming. Yet I will trust in the Lord.

### Recommendations:

If you'd like to know what kind of music I like, and want to make, you can search "[Above & Beyond](#)" on YouTube. They play a set each Friday called [Above & Beyond Group Therapy](#). It is so melodic. I'd also like to recommend the movies [American Gospel: Christ Alone](#) and [American Gospel: Christ Crucified](#). These movies interview many pastors and Church leaders to explain what we believe as Protestants. It is just so encouraging to be reminded how Christ is our Savior and we do not need to do anything to please Him. He has accomplished our salvation by what He did, not things we have to do. If you don't feel like watching a whole movie, I also recommend [YouTube videos by Mark Murchison](#). He records soft spoken, encouraging words each week. The videos are about 15 minutes long or less. Sometimes he reads portions of Scripture. His voice is so kind and soothing. And, lastly, if you haven't checked it out yet, I recommend the [TV Show: The Chosen](#). Just Google "[The Chosen](#)" to find it. It is a very creative show about the life of Jesus. I know that the thought of shows about Jesus can seem intimidating or boring, but give this series a try. It is so creative about what Jesus' live might have been like.

Well, folks, that's all for now. Thanks again, for reading all about me. I am my own favorite subject, for better or for worse. If you read these words and draw any comfort from them, please let me know. I am curious to know how many people read the written part of Etoonin'. It truly is my favorite part of crafting Etoonin'. We were created to know and to be known, and that it what I like to do: be known. May God bless you and those you care for. Love, Jim Bures