

# Etoonin' Incorporated - All for the Lord

2019.03.24

The Good Place Review

XX/153

This issue features creative writing inspired by the TV Show, The Good Place, merged with my own life. I only hijacked one joke from the show; the rest is my own original writing. It is unclear how the legal system would interpret my copyright breach, but I'm guessing no one will find out.

Michael Schur, the creator of The Good Place, paints an interesting portrait of Heaven, cleverly written. This unique show inspired me to strive for more with my own writing through a vehicle only I control: Etoonin'. I hope you enjoy these seven captivating cartoons. I invite you to toon in'...

## toon in'...

### The Good Place

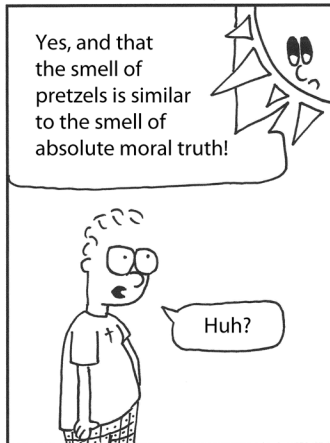
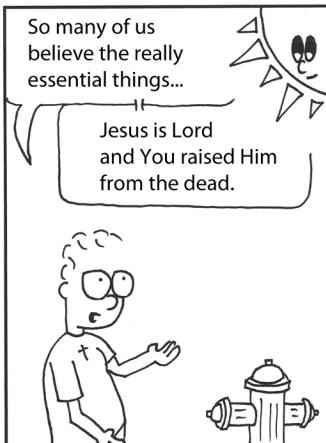
March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019



## toon in'...

### The Latter Days

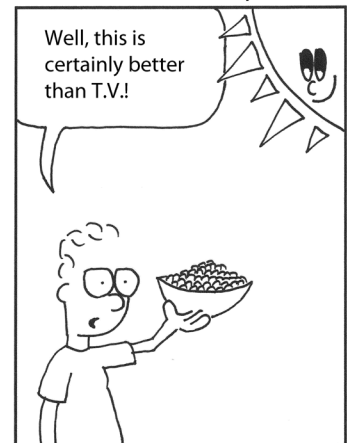
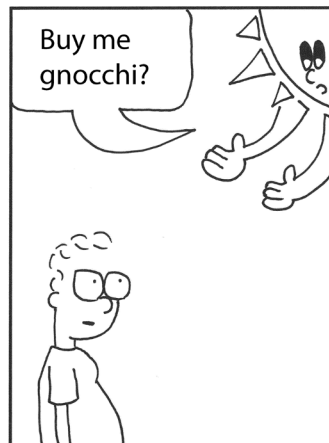
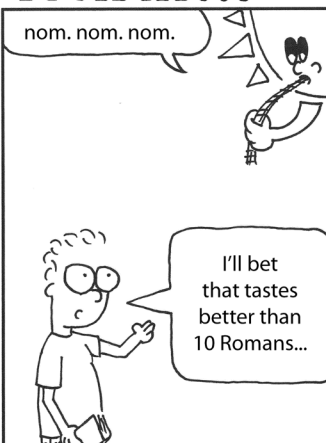
March 20<sup>1/2</sup>, 2019



## toon in'...

### The Sunshine Laws...

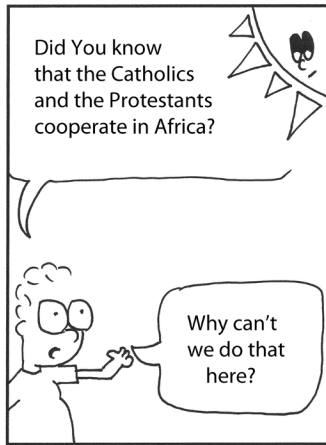
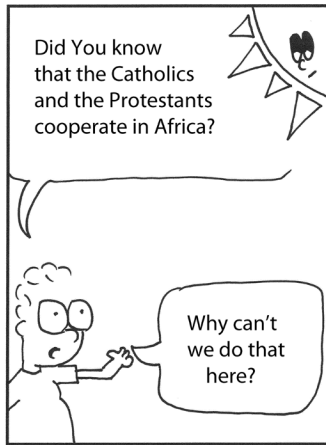
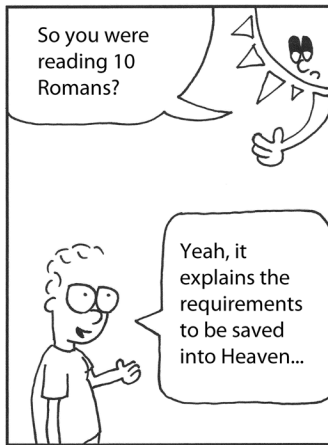
March 20<sup>2/3</sup>, 2019



## toon in'...

### Saddled With the Debt...

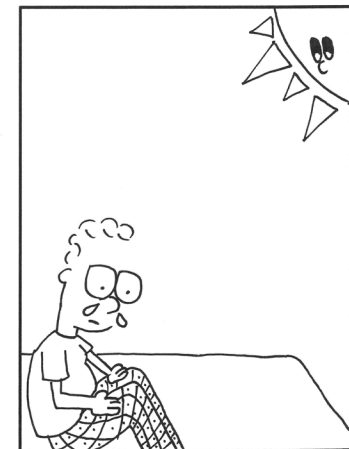
March 20<sup>3/4</sup>, 2019



## toon in'...

### What Makes the Man...

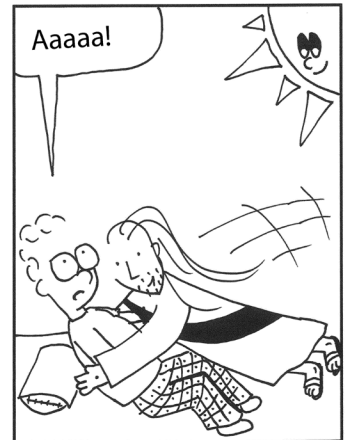
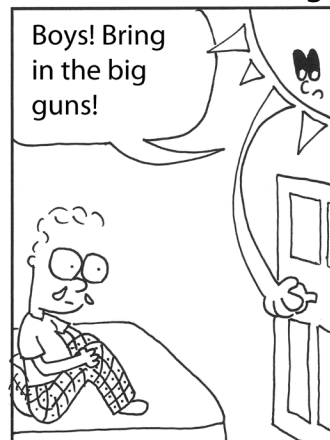
March 20<sup>4/5</sup>, 2019



## toon in'...

### The Whole Shebang...

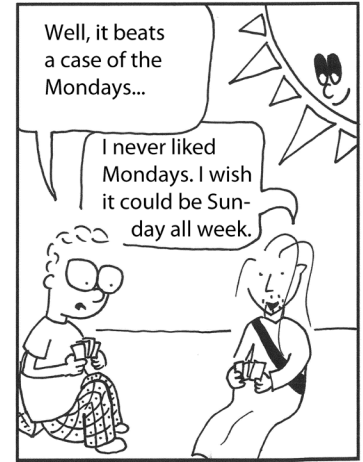
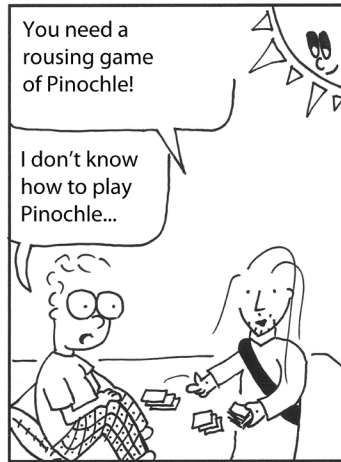
March 20<sup>5/6</sup>, 2019



**toon in'...**

**At Such a Time as This?**

**March 20<sup>6/7</sup>, 2019**



# THE GOOD PLACE

On February 7, 2019, I applied to requisition 131939 for the position of Technical Support Engineer II at Raytheon (Raytoonin'). On February 27, 2019, at 1:00 PM, I interviewed with just the hiring manager. It lasted 35 minutes. On March 8, 2019, Raytoonin' offered me the job of Senior Technical Support Engineer I, one level higher than what I interviewed for. I accepted the position officially on March 12, 2019 and I am currently undergoing the background check, drug test and medical evaluation. If that all goes through, I will have job #44! The timing is perfect because my current company is being sold. I worked for Raytoonin' from 1999 ~ 2006, but quit after I attempted suicide. This job will be the culmination of God restoring the years the locusts have eaten. Raytoonin' is a great place to work; a place I can retire from. Many friends within Raytoonin' contacted the hiring manager to give me a reference, which really helped. With the stability this job offers, I will be well suited to support a wife and children. I am thankful.

I have been able to lose 18.4 lbs so far following the Weight Watchers program. This should also help attracting the wife.

The interview process made me very anxious, mostly because I really want this job and what it represents to me. To ease my anxiety, I surrounded myself with friends. One friend, Hugh, had me over for dinner. After dinner, he introduced me to the NBC TV Show, The Good Place, starring Ted Danson and Kristen Bell. I thought it was sorta stupid, but with the anxiety I took to binge watching the show to distract me. I watched all three seasons so far. It is

really creative! The premise is that a woman, Eleanor, dies and goes to the good place, Heaven. But she quickly realizes she doesn't belong there because she was a bad person. She enlists her assigned "soul mate," Chidi, to teach her ethics and morals so she can become a better person and deserve to stay in the good place. Chidi is a moral philosophy professor, so he is well suited to the task. What ensues is a lot of hilarious adventure throughout the afterlife. Mike Schur, who wrote The Office, created the show; it is wonderful. The show covers all types of clever philosophical constructs as Eleanor basically fails at becoming better. This is the first show I've binge watched. It is also my inspiration to draw these cartoons.

Well, that and the fact that my housemate encouraged me. The show is so creative, it made me want to create too. I often watch movies and covet the makers of high quality entertainment. I realize many writers, editors and actors all work together to make a success. I admire actors and wish I could act in a movie, or, more realistically, write one. But I have this great, one person endeavor in creating cartoons. I have something to add to the world that comes entirely from me! I draw cartoons reluctantly sometimes, but usually I enjoy how they turn out. It is satisfying to create something out of nothing, like my music. I often feel bad that my cartoons are not widely read. I want to be famous. I want to make something great, but usually I'm lazy and do nothing. I wish that cartoons about Jesus had a wider audience, because I write what I know. That bums me out too: my cartoons depend on His inspiration. I wish I wanted to serve the One who serves me. I want to write Jesus great!

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I want to write Jesus in some creative way that He will appear attractive to everyone, not just current Christians. Jesus is high quality, deserving a better representation than movies that depict Him in long, flowing robes. Jesus inspired the invention of the car and the computer and the iPhone. I want to capture Him uniquely, inspirationally.

It has been six months since my last Etoonin'. In that time I have been thinking a lot about how Jesus forgives sins. That is good, because we all sin. It feels like He forgives sin in the past, sin we are sorry for. But I believe He forgives sin in the present, too. This is amazing. We will always be sinners this side of Heaven, yet He loves us. I struggle with that. He forgives my sin in the present, when I am clinging to it. His love is astounding, for He is entirely for us, even with our sin in the present! All his promises are true. When a man's ways are pleasing to the Lord, He causes even his enemies to live at peace with him (Proverbs 16:7). How can I please God when I am sinning? And yet I have seen it over and over: the Lord brings peace to me in all my relationships. I remember when I expected something to blind side me out of the blue. That almost never happens now. I find peace with almost all people. I say almost, but I mean never.

Another set of promises that ring true are: the Lord will fight for you, all you need to do is be still (Exodus 14:14). And Joshua 1:9 states: do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. Now, I don't claim to understand how God is with me. It doesn't feel like it. But yet I have seen God fight many battles for me. Things I fear, I conquer, like leading technical conference calls with our contract manufacturer. There was a time it was my first time doing so, and now I feel comfortable in it. There is leading presentations to acquiring companies. Every day is 24 hours and things I fear end up in the past. God blesses me to do things well. God shields me from pain. I think of the time I arrived to work late, but my boss got there later: I got full credit! I'm not saying it is good to arrive at work late, but love covers over a multitude of sins (1 Peter 4:8). God is love. He protects me in amazing ways.

The weird thing about the reality of Christ is that He is in complete control, while I have opinions and feelings about the matter. He does this or that and somehow I chose to do this or that too! His purposes for me prevail. How I wish He would just do and I could watch without having to participate. Somehow God orchestrates things for us even

though we have a will in the matter. What He wants gets done. It feels like the only thing I could do is screw it up!

I have struggled for many years and yet now it is all coming together. I have good jobs again. By the way, it is totally unfair how hard a minimum wage worker works compared to a white collar worker. We get paid so much more and we can check Facebook more often! I've been off Facebook since 7/22/2018. It was hard at first, but now I find it protects my reputation. No one can see my 5,000 ultra personal posts. I just tell it to God in prayer. I think it makes me appear a better person, because no one knows all the things going through my mind. And I don't have to deal with all the ads, political brouhahas and over-posting.

My favorite part of TV show, so far, is when Chidi and Eleanor have their first date four Oreos away from the good place. After passing through many different departments in the afterlife, the gang arrives in the good place's mail depot. There is a door that leads to the real good place, but humans can't go through it. Eleanor tries to jimmy the lock, but can't. So Chidi suggests they go on their first date to distract Eleanor from the door. They set up a nice table with fruit and champagne and start talking. Eleanor says, "This is my kind of scrappy fun sneaking around with a boy." Chidi decides to dress up in a mailman's uniform to impress Eleanor, but she starts crying. When he asks what is wrong, she becomes a bundle of nerves and talks about how she is so happy but miserable at the same time. Later, she is shown licking her tears. She explains to Chidi that, "You spend your whole life scared you will never have a real relationship and then, when you do, you are scared it will go away." Chidi encourages her.

I watched this part of the episode many times. It strikes me as sad that I get my romantic fulfillment from a TV show, but it seems so real to me. I find myself desiring that type of intimacy. I have been neglected by women for years. I keep thinking this or that will help, like my job at Raytoonin', but really I am just lonely. I don't know if a woman would help with the loneliness, but I feel that sadness that Eleanor does. I feel that sense of futility in relationships, always wondering if it will go away once I have it. I wonder about the nature of love and relationships. I guess I long for what I'll never have here: a deep, abiding, assuring and constant relationship with God. They say He is with us, but I don't know. I can't detect Him, which makes me a horrible witness at times, but I still trust in God. And I hope you will too! Love, Jim.

# Stay tooned, my friends...

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