**Each excerpt below**

**is color-coded**

**for your convenience:**

**inspiring excerpts, interesting excerpts, and funny excerpts!**

# Heaven

**The kingdom of heaven is near.**

***(St. Matthew 3:2)***

**Behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.  
(St. Luke 17:21)**

**And I saw a new heaven and a new earth;**

**for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.**

***(Revelation 21:1)***

**As a kid I never believed in heaven. It was hard enough for me to believe in Kansas. *(Woody Allen)***

**A Pennsylvania citizen, arriving in heaven, was asked to share some experience from his earthly days. The new arrival jumped at the opportunity. “I survived the Johnstown flood of 1889. Over two thousand people perished in the destruction. It was one of America’s worst disasters. I’ve told the story over and over. Now I can tell it up here.” “That will be fine,” said his guide. “But remember – Noah will be out there in the audience.” (Leslie B. & Bernice Flynn, in Humorous Incidents and Quips for Church Publications, p. 20)**

**The ancients believed that the heaven was higher than the earth; therefore, they maintained that God's habitation is in heaven from whence he watches men. In Aramaic and Hebrew the same word that means “heaven” also means “sky” and “the universe.” God is everywhere. The term heaven means peace and harmony. In Aramaic, we often say, “This is heaven,” which means, “We are living in peace and tranquility.” (George M. Lamsa, in Old Testament Light , p. 723)**

**ART INSURANCE?: Art, one of my co-workers, was commenting that he is not worried about going to heaven because every week at church all the people say, “Art in heaven,” as part of their prayers. One of the secretaries heard his remark, and retorted, “No, that’s not what they’re saying: they say, “**

**‘Who? Art in heaven?’” (Jim Mello, in Catholic Digest)**

**Dolly: “If we send astronauts to Mars, do they hafta drive past Heaven.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**An attorney died and went to heaven. As he approached the Pearly Gates, he noticed an orchestra playing and thousands of angels cheering. St. Peter himself rushed over to shake the lawyer’s hand. “This is quite a reception,” marveled the new arrival. “You’re very special,” St. Peter explained. “We’ve never had anyone live to be 130 before.” The attorney was puzzled. “But I’m only 65.” St. Peter thought for a moment. “Oh,” he said, “we must have added up your billing hours.” *(David Micus, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Billy writes a letter to his Granddad who has recently died: “Dear Granddad, sometime when things are slow up there in Heaven, could you get me God’s autograph?” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Dolly says to Mom: “It’d be nice if the angels potty-trained babies before they left Heaven.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)*  
Balancing the budget is like going to heaven. Everybody wants to do it. They just don’t want to do what you have to do to make the trip. (Senator Phil Gramm)  
*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**  
Carl and Abe are two old baseball fanatics. They agree that whoever dies first will try to come back and tell the other one if there’s baseball in heaven. One evening Abe passes away in his sleep. A few nights later Carl hears what sounds like Abe’s voice. “Abe, is that you?” he asks. “Of course it’s me,” Abe replies. “I can’t believe it,” Carl whispers. “So tell me, is there baseball in heaven?” “Well, I have good news and bad news,” Abe says. “The good news is, yes, there’s baseball in heaven. The bad news is you’re pitching tomorrow night!” (David Dangler, in Reader’s Digest)**

**Play Ball: St. Peter and Satan were arguing about baseball. George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and Tommy Lasorda under the same roof? It happened Tuesday as a portrait of the Los Angeles Dodgers legend was unveiled at the Smithsonian’s National Portrait Gallery on Lasorda’s 82nd birthday. The unveiling was the latest honor for a one-time pitcher with an 0-4 major-league record, Lasorda was voted into baseball’s Hall of Fame in 1997 and had an asteroid named after him in 2003 – Asteroid Lasorda. He now serves as special advisor to the team. “Somebody out here asked me what’s next for you?” Lasorda said. “I said, ‘Heaven.’” (Chicago Tribune)**

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**A woman took her young son to the beach on a bright and sunny day. They came upon the remains of a sea gull. “What happened to him?” the little boy asked. “He died and went to heaven,” Mom replied. They walked on, the little boy thinking about the sea gull and her answer. “Does God like birds?” he asked. “He loves birds,” Mom said. “And this bird went to heaven?” “Yes.” “So why did God throw it back down?” *(King Duncan & Angela Akers, in Amusing Grace, p. 62)***

**Children are the hands by which we take hold of heaven. (Henry Ward Beecher)  
  
Bible translators have not understood the spiritual meaning of the Scriptures, and they have nearly always translated the word “heavens” in the singular, making it read “heaven.” This error has misled many into thinking that Jesus, in His many parables and comparisons, referred to a place called heaven. But it is apparent that in these parables and comparisons He was trying to explain to His hearers the character of the omnipresent substance and life that has all potentiality and is the source of everything that appears on the earth. (Charles Fillmore, in Atom-Smashing Power of Mind, p. 170)**

**If you keep looking for a bliss, then you may as well stay stuck in where you are, because that is the closest you will get to it. (Dr. Paul Brenner)**

**Dear God, Is it true my father won’t get in Heaven if he uses his Bowling Words in the house? *(Stuart Hample and Eric Marshall, in Children’s Letters to God)***

**Man’s reach should exceed his grasp, else what’s a heaven for? (Browning)**

**An American, a Scot and a Canadian were killed in a car accident. They arrived at the gates of heaven, where a flustered St. Peter explained that there had been a mistake. “Give me $500 each,” he said, “and I’ll return you to earth as if the whole thing never happened.” “Done!” said the American. Instantly, he found himself standing unhurt near the scene. “Where are the others? asked a medic. “Last I knew,” said the American, “the Scot was haggling price, and the Canadian was arguing that his government should pay.” (The Jokesmith)**

**Heart: “Sheesh! What a black year for cartoonists. First Charles Schulz dies, now Jeff MacNelly!” Girl: “Jeff who?” Heart: “I hope you got buckets of India ink and stacks of 2-ply bristol up there, God! You’re gonna need it!” Girl: “2-ply what? Still they’re in a better place.” Heart: “In heaven, the Winsor and Newtons are free, and there’s no such thing as writer’s block.” Girl: “Does anybody know what this kid is talking about?” *(Mark Tatulli, in Heart Of The City comic strip)***

**One neighbor’s cat was run over by a car, and the mother quickly disposed of the remains before her four-year-old son Billy found out about it. After a few days, though, Billy finally asked about the cat. “Billy, the cat died,” his mother explained. “But it’s all right. He’s up in heaven with God.” The boy asked, “What in the world would God want with a dead cat?” *(Ross Sams, Jr., in Reader’s Digest)***

**You'll not be in heaven if you're not leaning on the arm of someone you have helped. (Edgar Cayce)**

**Jeffy: “Wonder what the church is like that Granddad goes to in heaven.” Billy: “Biggest and best anywhere! God is the Pastor!” Dolly: “Granddad must really enjoy that.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**On our first visit to the United States, we stood in a long line at the airport waiting for clearance through immigration. The officer carefully examined everyone’s credentials. When our turn finally came, I jokingly remarked that it seemed to be more difficult to get into the United States than to enter the kingdom of heaven. Without hesitation the immigration official replied, “Buddy, there’s a lot more folks tryin’!” *(A. Cameron, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Quip Witted: While handing a cents-off coupon to the supermarket clerk at the checkout counter, I inadvertently missed her hand, and the coupon slipped beneath the scale and was gone. The checker looked distressed, so I said, “That’s okay, it’s in coupon heaven now.” “Coupon heaven?” she repeated. “Yes,” I told her, “That’s where coupons go when they die.” “Only the redeemed ones!” she answered. *(Tom Kohlhepp, in Reader’s Digest)***

**What have you done to deserve entry into heaven?” St. Peter asked a man at the Pearly Gates. “I once came upon a gang of toughs threatening a woman,” the man said. “I went up to the biggest one, punched him in the nose, kicked over his Harley and ripped out his nose ring. I said to the rest of the gang, ‘Leave the poor woman alone or you’ll answer to me!’” St. Peter was impressed. “When did this happen?” “A couple of minutes ago,”the man said. *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**If you die in an elevator, be sure to push the up button. *(Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Companion, p. 56)***

**Father Murphy walks into a pub in Donegal and says to the first man he meets, “Do you want to go to heaven?” The man says, “I do, Father.” The priest says, “Then stand over there against the wall.” The priest asks a second man, “Do you want to go to heaven?” “Certainly, Father” is the man’s reply. “Then stand over there against the wall.” Father Murphy walks up to a third man and asks, “Do you want to go to heaven?” “No, I don’t, Father,” replies the man. The priest is aghast. “You mean that when you die you don’t want to go to heaven?” “Oh, when I die, yes. I thought you were getting a group together to go right now.” *(FAITHWRITERS.COM)***

**A little boy went to a doctor for a throat checkup and noticed a religious painting on the doctor’s wall. “What’s that for?” the boy asked. “That reminds me that someday I’m going to heaven,” the doctor replied. “Wouldn’t you like to go to heaven?” “Sure,” the boy answered. “Well, now, what do you think we must do to get there?” the doctor asked. “We must die,” the boy responded. “That’s right,” the doctor smiled, “but what must we do before that?” The boy pondered and then said, “We must get sick and send for you.” *(King Duncan & Angela Akers, in Amusing Grace, p. 11)***

**A THOUGHT TO REMEMBER: In doggie heaven, who is assigned to throw tennis balls for all eternity? *(Reminisce magazine)***

**If I believed that the kingdom of heaven was up there somewhere, I would have rented the upper rom. *(Ralph Waldo Emerson)***

**When three-year-old Angela stared from the car window to eye a stately white funeral home, she remarked with awe, “What a pretty white house to live in!” “Honey, that’s not a house to live in.” her mother off-handedly explained. “That’s a place where people go when they die.” “Oh! Look, Ceil!” she squealed with delight to her four-year-old sister. “There’s heaven!” *(Therese Beatty, in Catholic Digest)***

**“If you keep getting into mischief,” the exasperated mother said to her son, “how do you expect to get into heaven?” “I’ll run in and out and keep slamming the door,” the boy said, “until St. Peter says, ‘For heaven’s sake, come in or stay out!’” *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**Bible Belt: Our intern pastor stepped into the pulpit to deliver his sermon one Sunday morning with all the apprehension of a young man recently graduated from divinity school. He hesitated a moment. Then his face broke into a wide grin as he shared with us the message someone had left near his notes. “Give ‘em Heaven!” it said. *(M. L. Rogness, in Reader’s Digest)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**A doctor died and was sitting at the gates of heaven waiting for a space to open up so he could finally get in to see God. While he was waiting, a guy in a white coat ran out of heaven. Then the guy returned and walked right back in, he didn’t even have to wait! The doctor was pretty upset and said to the gatekeeper, “How come that guy gets to go in and out and I have to just wait here?” “Oh,” said the gatekeeper, “That guy? That’s God. He likes to play doctor.” *(On Course magazine)***

**One child says to another: “I’d be a lot better off if God had created more heaven and less earth.” *(The Saturday Evening Post cartoon)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**The Rev. Billy Graham tells of a time early in his career when he arrived in a small town to preach a sermon. Wanting to mail a letter, he asked a young boy where the post office was. When the boy had told him, Dr. Graham thanked him and said, “If you’ll come to the Baptist church this evening, you can hear me telling everyone how to get to heaven.” “I don’t think I’ll be there,” the boy said. “You don’t even know your way to the post office.” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**We don’t go to heaven, we grow to heaven. We grow in consciousness to the heaven of love, peace, joy and wholeness. And, the time of going and growing is now! A change from the 20th to the 21st century will not change your life nor mine. The change must be an inner change. (Dr. R. Eugene Nichols, in Ave-News)**

**A preacher was speaking to a Sunday School class. He had finished speaking on the joys and wonders of heaven. Then he asked, “How many would like to go to heaven?” All but one boy raised his hand. “Harvey, don’t you want to go to heaven?” he asked. “Yes, I want to go,” replied the boy, “but my mother told me to come right home after Sunday School.” *(Rev. Leon Hill, in O’ For The Life Of A Preacher, p. 63)***

**Many people have asked me to tell them about heaven and the afterlife. I sometimes smile because I do not know any more than they do. Yet when one young man asked if I looked forward to being united with God and all those who have gone before me, I made a connection to an old memory. The first time I traveled with my mother and sister to my parents’ homeland of Tonadico di Primiero in Northern Italy, I felt as if I had been there before. After years of looking through my mother’s photo albums, I knew the mountains, the land, the houses, the people. As soon as we entered the valley, I said, “I know this place. I am home.” Somehow I think crossing from this life into life eternal will be similar. I will be home. (Joseph Cardinal Bernardin, in The Gift of Peace)**

**Remember: When you die you don’t have to do homework in heaven unless your teacher is there too. (On Course magazine)  
  
Hopscotch was once a religious game. Final square was heaven. (L. M. Boyd)**

**How’s That Again? On the entrance of the Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Hawthorne, New York, appears a small notice reading “Gates close at 4:30.” (Gail Hintz, in Reader’s Digest)**

**Your enjoyment of this world is never right, ‘til every morning you awake in heaven. There is none other than the house of God and the gate of heaven. (Aldous Huxley)**

**The little girl was happily humming a hymn as she dusted the furniture to help her mother. “Mommie, will I be dusting God’s chair when I get to heaven, the way the hymn says?” she asked. Mother looked up with surprise, “Which hymn, honey?” “And dust around the throne,” her little girl quoted. It took a while before the mother learned that she was quoting a line from the hymn “Marching to Zion,” with the phrase, “and thus surround the throne.” *(Paul Lee Tan, in Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations)***

**Two guys, Jimmy and Johnny, were standing at heaven’s gate, waiting to be interviewed by St. Peter. Jimmy: “How did you get here?” Johnny: “Hypothermia. You?” Jimmy: “You won’t believe it. I was sure my wife was cheating on me, so I came home early one day hoping to find the guy. I accused my wife of unfaithfulness and searched the whole house without any luck. Then I felt so badly about the whole thing I had a massive heart attack.” Johnny: “Oh, man, if you had checked the walk-in freezer, we’d both be alive.” *(Faiz Rahman, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Recently my five-year-old daughter Rachel, her brother, her godfather, and I were taking an afternoon drive when she got the hiccups. (We are from the South and speak accordingly, so imagine the Southern drawl that each of us uses.) Rachel’s godfather, trying to help her get rid of the hiccups, said, “Rachel, inhale and exhale real slow.” Rachel just looked at him. Thinking she might not understand, he asked, “Do you know what ‘inhale’ and ‘exhale’ mean?” “Sort of,” Rachel answered. “Inhale means when you’re far away from God and never ever get to see Him.” *(Valerie Remy)***

**An Arizona woman revived 27 minutes after her heart stopped asked for a pen and a piece of paper, and wrote, “It’s real.” Tina Hines went into cardiac arrest and appeared close to death; her heart had to be restarted with a defibrillator five times. When she finally regained consciousness, she wrote her message and began pointing upward with tears in her eyes, explaining she had seen heaven. “It was so real, the colors were so vibrant,” Hines later said. *(The Week magazine, August 9, 2019)***

**Just Beyond: I've feasted on rich sunsets that were gorgeous as could be, and yet the rarest sunset is the one I'll never see. As footprints spoil the beauty of a smooth and silver beach, so nature’s wondrous music is destroyed by human speech. The birds and forests disappear when civilization comes, enchanting landscapes are replaced by narrow streets and slums. Man's touch defiles the lovely things and ravishes the land, that's why God keeps His Heaven just beyond our mortal hands! (Nick Kenny, in Poems to Inspire)  
  
I believe there is a language in heaven which we learn on earth. If we learn the vocabulary of love now, when we meet God face to face we will know what He is talking about. (Phil Barnhart, in Seasonings for Sermons, p. 86)**

**My wife and I were quizzing 5-year-old Megan about what she had learned in Sunday school that morning. “We learned about fixing things,” she said. “Fixing things? You mean you did crafts.” “No, we learned about fixing things,” she insisted. “It’s in our memory verse. Jesus said, ‘I go to repair a place for you.’” *(David Willingham, in Christian Herald)***

**I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library. (Jorge Luis Borges, Argentine author)**

**“I wish,” said the drinker to the clergyman, “that you had the keys to Heaven so that you might let me in.” “Twere better,” said the clergyman, “that I had the keys to hell that I might let you out!” (Malachy McCourt, in Harold Be Thy Name)  
  
Keep in mind that “heaven,” as Jesus uses the term, is not a place in the sky or a reward for after life. The word “heaven” comes from a Greek root that means “expanding.” Thus, Jesus is talking about the expanding potential within the individual -- within you. Heaven is the potential of the Spirit in you that is wrapped in your human nature. (Dr. Eric Butterworth, in Discover the Power Within You , p. 58)**

**During a sermon our pastor stated that money wasn’t important in the afterlife, because in heaven, there is no money. I overheard one parishioner whisper to her mother, “Did you hear that, Mom? We’re already in heaven.” *(Kevin Wild)***

**Heaven is at the feet of mothers. *(Persian proverb)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Little Bobbie, scolded for being naughty, was asked by his mother, “How do you expect to get into heaven?” He thought for a moment and then replied: “I’ll just run in and out and keep slamming the door until they say, ‘For goodness sake, come in or stay out.’ Then I’ll go in.” *(C. J. Papara, in Guideposts)***

**Friends in High Places: My 4-year-old niece was visiting me one day. I told her that if she was a naughty girl, she wouldn’t get into Heaven. “Oh, yes, I will,” she said. “My grandma’s up there and she’ll let me in.” *(Harriet Andersion, in Reminisce magazine)***

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**If I ever reach heaven, I expect to find three wonders there; first to meet some I had not thought to see there; second, to miss some I had expected to see there; and third, the greatest wonder of all, to find myself there. (John Newton)**

**In heaven, all the interesting people are missing. (Friedrich Nietzsche)**

**A little city girl was in the country for the first time and saw the night sky. “Oh, mother, if heaven is so beautiful on the wrong side what must it be like on the right side!” *(Paul Lee Tan, in Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations)***

**At the beginning of his ministry Jesus declared, “Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” This was an entirely new idea about heaven to people who had been postponing their expectancy of good, their security, their peace of mind, their happiness, to some remote future. But Jesus came declaring that it is all at hand, right now, with us and within us. *(Carl Moran, in INTA magazine)***

**An elderly couple, admitted by St. Peter through the Pearly Gates, found conditions there just heavenly. Said the man to his wife, “I could have been here two years ago if you hadn’t fed me all that oat bran.” *(Paul Izdepski, in The Joyful Noiseletter)***

**Am told “paradise” is a Persian word that literally means “hunting ground.” (L. M. Boyd)**

**Pennies from heaven: Six hundred years ago, if you wanted to go to heaven when you died, you simply bought a certificate, called an indulgence, from the Catholic Church in Rome. *(The Diagram Group, in Funky, Freaky Facts, p. 50)***

**To the pre-Christian Anglo-Saxons, heaven was not a place to play harps, but a place to visit with other departed souls and enjoy alcoholic beverages. (Noel Botham, in *The Amazing Book of Useless Information, p. 193)***

**Jean-Paul Sartre (arriving in heaven): “It’s not what I expected.” God: “What did you expect?” Sartre: “Nothing.” (SCTV)**

**Little Johnny’s new baby brother was screaming up a storm. “Where’d we get him?” he asked his mom. “He came from heaven, Johnny,” his mother replied. “Wow! I can see why they threw him out!” Johnny said. *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**The gate of heaven is very low; only the humble can enter it. (St. Elizabeth Seton)**

**Where did the phrase “seventh heaven” come from? Mohammedan belief that there were seven heavens, each happier than the one before, with the seventh supremely happy. (L. M. Boyd)**

**I am certain that there will be three surprises in heaven. First of all, I will see some people there whom I never expected to see. Second, there will be a number whom I expect to be there who will not be there. And, even relying on His mercy, the biggest surprise of all may be that I will be there. *(Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, in Treasure in Clay)***

**Billy says to Jeffy while reading a book: “There’s a big special effects department in Heaven just to do halos.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Instead of a heaven after death, the new Christianity teaches a kingdom of the heavens existing now as a righteous state of mind. It teaches that man makes his heaven here and now by the formative power of his thought. *(Charles Fillmore, in Jesus Christ Heals)***

**One night while getting my two boys ready for bed, I told them I would read a new Bible story. The older one said, “You mean there are more stories in the Bible?” The younger one answered, “Oh yes, those people in Heaven are always doing something new.” *(Lois Shenold, in Country magazine)***

**“Mummy,” said little Brian, “Percy doesn’t know how to swim because his mom won’t let him go near the water.” “Well, Percy is a very good little boy.” “Yep,” little Brian answered reflectively, “and I suppose he’ll go to Heaven the first time he falls in the lake.” *(Weekly Progress)***

**Heaven is going to be a vast, colorful tapestry of living things. God is a God of life, and his home is going to reflect that. Does this seem too childish and silly to believe? I certainly hope so, because that’s a sure sign that it’s true. (Anthony Destefano, in A Travel Guide to Heaven)**

**Heaven is under our feet as well as over our heads. (Henry David Thoreau)**

**If I have any belief about immortality, it is that certain dogs I have known will go to Heaven, and very, very few persons. *(James Thurber)***

**Know why there are so many pictures of saints and Madonnas and Christs on the Cross in the art of the Renaissance? Because that’s what everybody who had the price to buy one wanted. Popes, bishops, princes, all had the money and they thought an investment in religious art was a fairly sure ticket to heaven. Even the poor folks saved their money to buy religious paintings. There is some question if this kind of bribery works. *((Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 190)***

**Ever wonder what TV might be like in heaven? Little Billy draws his version of what Granddad might be watching: Non-Survivor. Those stories and Andy Rooney tonight on ‘60 Millenniums.’ Saturday Night Dead. Touched by an Earthling. *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Heaven goes by favor. If it went by merit, you would stay out and your dog would go in. (Mark Twain)**

**It is my heart-warming and world-embracing hope that all of us -- the high, the low, the rich, the poor, the admired, the despised, the loved, the hated, the civilized and the savage – may eventually be gathered in a heaven of everlasting rest and peace and bliss -- except the inventor of the telephone. (Mark Twain, 1890 Christmas prayer) 12129113**

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**We do not have to die to enter the kingdom of Heaven. In fact, we have to be fully alive. *(Thich Nhat Hanh)***

**If Heaven had a Website, we could send e-mail to Granddad. *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**St. Peter looked at a new arrival, checked the book and said: “You’re not supposed to be here for five years. Who was your doctor?” *(On Course magazine)***

**There is a little church in Ireland with beautiful stained-glass windows. The richness of the reds and blues are breathtaking. However, there is one window that has been left in clear glass. It is the most beautiful window of them all for it looks out over a panorama that includes a clear-blue lake and green rolling hills. Under the window is this inscription: “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth His handiwork.” (Dynamic Preaching)**

**Dolly says to her Mom: “I wish we could go to Heaven without dyin’, look around, then come back home.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**How can the world be improving, when what we once called “heaven” we now call “space”? (Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)**  
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