

Some quotations from the theological writings of Emanuel Swedenborg:

For people on earth, heaven is to recognize the divine and to be led by the divine. The first and foremost principle of every religion is the recognition of the divine, and the rules of every religion is the recognition of the divine, and the rules of every religion center in worship in how the divine is to be revered in order to be accepted.... A moral life may be lived for the sake of the divine or for the sake of people in this world. These two look alike outwardly, but they are inwardly quite different. For the person who is living a moral life for the sake of the divine is being led by the divine, but the one who is living a moral life for the sake of people in this world is self-led.

*Heaven & Hell # 319*

The hungry are those who ... are called the poor, thus those who have no bread and water and so are wanting food and drink, that is, those who have no knowledge of goodness and truth and yet desire them. By bread and water in the Word goodness and truth are meant...; and by hungering and thirsting, thus by wanting food and drink, the desire for them is meant. Such people are also meant ... by the poor (as in Luke 6:20-21).

*Arcana Coelestia #10227.21-.22*

Blessed are you when people will hate you on account of the Son of Man (Luke 6:22). On account of the Son of Man is on account of Divine Truth, which emanates from the Lord. Divine Truth constitutes the all of faith in and love to the Lord; and being hated on account of these is blessedness.

*Arcana Coelestia #9807.3*

Truth is ... like a garment; when not being worn, it is merely pieces of material adapted for a body, but when it is put on, it becomes clothing with a human being inside.

*Divine Love and Wisdom #150*

Nothing becomes part of a person unless it occurs as a result of some affection that belongs to their love. Other things may come into the individual, but they come no farther than the thinking – they do not enter the intention. Anything that does not enter right into one's intention does not belong to them; for the thinking draws its material from memory, while intention draws its material from the life itself.

*Heaven & Hell # 598*

It should also be known that in deeds or works the whole person is presented, and that one's intentionality and thought (which are our more inward things) are not complete until they exist in deeds or works (which are our more outward things). Deeds and works are actually the outmost things in which those (inward) aspects find their boundaries, and without boundaries they are undefined, so to speak, like things that have not yet emerged and are therefore not yet part of oneself.

*Heaven & Hell # 475*

People are so created that they can be more and more closely united to the Lord. One is so united not by knowledge alone, nor by intelligence alone, nor even by wisdom alone, but by a life in accordance with these. The more closely one is united to the Lord, the wiser and happier one becomes, the more distinctly one seems to oneself to be one's own, and the more clearly one perceives that one is the Lords.

*Divine Providence #32*

SUNDAY MORNING FORUM  
BIBLE STUDY & SWEDENBORGIAN IDEAS  
**EPIPHANY 6: BLESSEDNESS**

Our yet-to-be regenerated point of view puts us at odds with God's perspectives. This distinction is clearly presented in Jesus Blessings (Luke 6, Matthew 5). Because God wants us to be happy to eternity, and not simply for a lifetime, God constantly endeavors to make his Divine Love and Wisdom manifest to us that by living according to it we may be truly blessed.

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Thus says the Lord: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man And makes flesh his strength, Whose heart departs from the Lord. For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, And shall not see when good comes, But shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, In a salt land which is not inhabited. "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, And whose hope is the Lord. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, Nor will cease from yielding fruit. "The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? And not one of them is forgotten before God. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

Luke 12:6-7

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth ... but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.... For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Mathew 5:19-21

And He came down with them and stood on a level place with a crowd of His disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear Him and be healed of their diseases, as well as those who were tormented with unclean spirits. And they were healed. And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed them all. Then He lifted up His eyes toward His disciples, and said: "Blessed are you poor, For yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, For you shall be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, For you shall laugh. Blessed are you when men hate you, And when they exclude you, And revile you, and cast out your name as evil, For the Son of Mans sake. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward is great in heaven, For in like manner their fathers did to the prophets. But woe to you who are rich, For you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full, For you shall hunger. Woe to you who laugh now, For you shall mourn and weep. Woe to you when all men speak well of you, For so did their fathers to the false prophets.

Luke 6:17-26