

“Show me Your ways, O Lord; teach me Your **paths**....

All the **paths** of the Lord *are* mercy and truth, to such as keep His covenant and His testimonies.” (Psalm 25:4,10)

“**The Gentiles shall come to your light**, and kings to the brightness of your rising.... They shall ascend with acceptance on My altar, and I will glorify the house of My glory.” (Isaiah 60:3,7)

“How I wish one of you would shut the Temple doors so that these worthless sacrifices could not be offered! I am not pleased with you,’ says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, ‘and I will not accept your offerings. **But my name is honored by people of other nations from morning till night**. All around the world they offer sweet incense and pure offerings in honor of my name. For my name is great among the nations,’ says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies.” (Malachi 1:10-11 NLT)

“By their fruits you will know them. Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does the will of My Father in heaven.” (Matthew 7:20-21)

“When Jesus heard [the Roman centurion], He marveled, and said to those who followed, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! And I say to you that **many will come from east and west**, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob **in the kingdom of heaven**.’” (Matthew 8:10-11)

“But a certain **Samaritan**, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw [the hurt Jewish man], he had compassion.” (Luke 10:33)

“**God is love**, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God in them.” (1 John 4:16)

“And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me **the great city, the holy Jerusalem**, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. ... She had a great and high wall with twelve gates.... **three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west**.” (Revelation 21:10-13)

*“This is the sign of the pact [covenant] that I am setting up between me and all flesh that is on the earth means that not only would people in the church have an indication that the Lord was present in charity but people outside the church would too. ...*  
**The Lord is just as much present in charity among those who are outside the church, called gentiles, as among those who are inside the church.** In fact He is more closely present, because they have less cloud in their intellectual part than so-called Christians usually do.”  
(Secrets of Heaven 1059)

“Mutual love and charity bring such people together into one despite the variety among them, because it draws unity out of variety. When everyone practices charity, or loves each other, then no matter how many people there are – even if they number in the hundreds of millions – they share a single goal: the common good, the Lord’s kingdom, and the Lord Himself. **Variety in doctrine and worship are, again, like the variety of senses and organs in the human body, which contribute to the perfection of the whole.** When doctrine or worship varies, then the Lord, working by means of charity, affects and acts on each of us in a way uniquely suited to our personality. In this way He fits each and every one of us into the order of things, on earth just as in heaven.” (Secrets of Heaven 1285)

**“The Lord does not differentiate religious movements by their doctrine, either, but by the way their members live what is taught.** All doctrine – if it is true doctrine – looks to a life of love as its fundamental principle. What is the point of doctrine but to teach us how to be human? In the Christian world, it is doctrine that differentiates churches. Doctrine is the basis on which people call themselves Roman Catholic, Lutheran (or Evangelical), Calvinist (or Reformed), and other names as well. These names grow out of doctrine alone, which would never happen if we considered love for the Lord and charity for our neighbor the chief concern of faith. If we did, those distinctions would simply be differences of opinion on the mysteries of faith. True Christians would leave such issues up to the individual and the individual's conscience. In their hearts they would say, ‘A person who lives as a Christian – who lives as the Lord teaches – is a real Christian.’ One church would come out of all the different churches, and all disagreement due to doctrine alone would vanish. Even the hatred of one denomination for another would melt away in a moment, and the Lord's kingdom would come on earth.” (Secrets of Heaven 1799.3-4)

“Knowing religious concepts counts for nothing in the other world. Very evil and even hellish people can learn them, sometimes better than others. It is living by what you know that counts for something, since life is the point of all such knowledge. ... However, doctrinal concepts (or religious knowledge) are still indispensable in forming a charitable life; it cannot be formed without them. This life is what saves us after death. A life of supposed faith without charity is definitely not what saves us, because without charity there is no such thing as a life of faith. **People who live a life of love and charity live the Lord's life. No one can be united to him by any other kind of life.**” (Secrets of Heaven 2049.3-4)

“It is very common for those who have adopted an opinion regarding any truth of faith to sit in judgement on others and to say that they cannot be saved unless their beliefs coincide with their own - a judgement which the Lord has forbidden, in Matthew 7:1-2. Yet from much experience I have been led to know that **members of every religion are saved provided that they have received through a life of charity remnants of good and appearances of truth.** This is what was meant by *‘if ten were found [there] they would not be destroyed for the sake of the ten’*, that is, that if remnants were present they would be saved. The life of charity consists in thinking what is good in regard to another, and in willing for them that which is good, and in feeling joy within oneself that others as well are saved. But those people do not possess the life of charity whose will is that no others should be saved than those whose beliefs coincide with theirs, especially those who are indignant that the situation is otherwise. This becomes clear solely from the fact that **more gentiles are saved than Christians.** For people who have thought what is good in regard to their neighbor and have willed for them that which is good accept the truths of faith in the next life more readily than those who called themselves Christians; and they acknowledge the Lord more than Christians do. Indeed nothing gives angels greater delight and happiness than to be teaching those who pass from the world into the next life.” (Secrets of Heaven 2284.4-5)

“But it should be recognized that no truths with people, nor even with an angel, are ever pure, that is, free of appearances. Every single one is an appearance of the truth, but **appearances are nevertheless accepted by the Lord as truths if they hold good within them.** To the Lord alone do pure truths, being Divine truths, belong - for as the Lord is Good itself, so is He Truth itself.” (Secrets of Heaven 3207.3)

“For the Lord's Word is all-embracing and in general includes every Church.”  
(Secrets of Heaven 4690.2)

“Heaven is where the Lord is recognized, trusted, and loved. **The different ways He is worshiped** - in variations that stem from the difference of activity from one community to another - **do not cause harm but bring benefit**, because they are a source of heaven's perfection.” (Heaven and Hell 56)

“We can say the same of the church as we have of heaven, since the church is the Lord's heaven on earth. It also has many components, and yet each is called a church and is a church to the extent that the qualities of love and faith rule within it. In it, the Lord forms a single whole out of the varied elements, and therefore makes **a single church out of many churches.**” (Heaven and Hell 57)

“So **He provides that everyone shall have some religion**, an acknowledgment of the Divine Being through that religion, and an inner life. That is, living according to one's religious principles is an inner life, for then we focus on the Divine; and to the extent that we do focus on the Divine, we do not focus on the world but move away from the world and therefore from a worldly life, which is an outward life.” (Heaven and Hell 318)

“People can realize that **non-Christians as well as Christians are saved** if they know what constitutes heaven in us; for heaven is within us, and people who have heaven within them come into heaven.” (Heaven and Hell 319)

“It is a divine truth that there is no salvation apart from the Lord, but this needs to be understood as meaning that there is no salvation that does not come *from* the Lord. **There are many planets in the universe, all full of inhabitants.** Hardly any of them know that the Lord took on a human nature on our planet. Still, though, since they do revere the Divine Being in human form, they are accepted and led by the Lord.” (Heaven and Hell 321)

“**Non-Christians come into heaven more readily than Christians nowadays**, in keeping with the Lord's words in Luke: *Then they will come from the east and the west and the north and the south and will recline in the kingdom of God; and indeed there will be many of the last who will be first, and of the first who will be last.* (Luke 13:29-30).” (Heaven and Hell 324)

“One morning [in the spiritual world] I heard a far off chorus. I could tell from images of the chorus that they were **Chinese**.... I talked with them shortly afterward, and eventually mentioned the Lord. **When I called him ‘Christ,’ I could sense a kind of resistance in them.** The reason for this was uncovered, though. This derived from their experience in the world, from their having known that Christians lived worse lives than they did, lives devoid of thoughtfulness. When I simply mentioned ‘the Lord,’ though, they were deeply moved. Later they were taught by angels that Christian doctrine more than any other in the whole world demands love and thoughtfulness, but that there are not many people who live up to it.” (Heaven and Hell 325)

“Of non-Christians, the **Africans** are especially valued in heaven. They accept the good and true things of heaven more readily than others do.” (Heaven and Hell 326)

“The Lord's church is spread throughout the whole world. It is universal, then, and consists of all individuals who have lived in the virtue of thoughtfulness **according to the principles of their religions.**” (Heaven and Hell 328)

“All the teaching there [in places of instruction in the world of spirits] is from doctrine drawn from the Word, and not from the Word apart from doctrine. Christians are taught on the basis of a heavenly doctrine that is in complete agreement with the inner meaning of the Word. The **others, like the Muslims and non-Christians, are taught on the basis of doctrines suited to their grasp.** These differ from heavenly doctrine only in that spiritual life is taught through a moral life **in accord with the good tenets of their own religion,** which was the basis of their life in the world.” (Heaven and Hell 516)

“After the Last Judgment was complete, **the Lord created, or formed, a new heaven.** This heaven is made up of all the people who, from the time of the Lord’s Coming to the time of the judgment, had lived lives of faith and caring.... Since this heaven was formed out of all such individuals from the Lord’s time to the present, we can be sure that **it is made up of both Christians and non-Christians.** The largest portion, though, consists of all the little children from the whole world who have died since the time of the Lord. All of them, you see, have been adopted by the Lord, raised in heaven, and taught by angels. They have been kept safe so that they could be part of the new heaven along with others. We can therefore determine how vast this heaven is. You may see in... that heaven is formed just as much from non-Christians as from Christians.” (New Jerusalem and its Heavenly Doctrines 2-3)

“Pure truths are not to be found in us or even in angels – only in the Lord. Any truths that we have are only apparently true. The first truths we have are things that seem to be true according to our deceptive senses; we gradually **shed these** as we increase in wisdom. **If we are devoted to what is good, the things we think are true are accepted as real truths by the Lord.**” (New Jerusalem and its Heavenly Doctrine 27.4)

“People outside the church who acknowledge one God and in accordance with their religion devote their lives in some way to caring about their neighbor have something in common with people in the church, because **no one who believes in God and lives a good life is damned.** This shows that although the Lord's church takes a particular form where the Lord is acknowledged and the Word is found, it actually exists everywhere in the whole world.” (NJHD 244)

“Non-Christians--especially Africans--who acknowledge and worship one God as the Creator of the universe conceive of that God as a person. They say that no one can have any other concept of God. When they hear that many people prefer an image of God as a little cloud in the center, they ask where these people are; and when they are told that these people are among the Christians, they respond that this is impossible. They are told, however, that Christians get this idea from the fact that in the Word God is called a spirit; and the only concept they have of spirit is of a piece of cloud. ... I heard one Christian elder say that no one could have a concept of a being both divine and human; and I saw him taken to various **non-Christians**, more and more profound ones. Then **he was taken to their heavens**, and finally to a heaven of Christians. Through the whole process people's inner perception of God was communicated to him, and he came to realize that their only concept of God was a concept of a person--which is the same as a concept of a being both divine and human.” (Divine Love and Wisdom 11)

“**In the spiritual world** where we all arrive after death, **no one asks what our faith has been** or what our beliefs have been, only what our life has been, whether we are one kind of person or another.” (Divine Providence 101.3)

“People say at heart, ‘How can there be so many contradictory religions rather than one worldwide, true religion when the goal of divine providence is a heaven from the human race?’ Please listen, though! **No matter what religion people are born into, people can all be saved** if they believe in God and live by the precepts of the Ten Commandments.” (Divine Providence 253)

“Once a religion has taken root, the Lord leads its people by the laws and principles of that religion. Further, the Lord makes sure that in every religion there are laws like those of the Ten Commandments, stating that we are to worship God, not to profane His name, to observe holy days, to honor our parents, not to murder, not to commit adultery, not to steal, and not to commit perjury. Any people that regards these laws as divine and lives by them because of its religion is saved. Most of the peoples remote from Christianity regard these not as civil laws but as divine laws and keep them sacred.... **The Lord has arranged that even people whom the Gospel has not reached, people who simply have some religion, can have a place in that divine person who is heaven.**... We can see from this that because the Lord wants to save everyone, He makes sure that all of us can have our places in heaven if we live well.” (Divine Providence 254.2-6)

“It is because of divine providence that Islam recognizes the Lord as the Son of God, the wisest of mortals, and a supreme prophet, one who came into the world to teach us. ... This religion was prompted by the Lord's divine providence in order to eliminate the idolatrous practices of many nations.... We can see from this that **Islam too was started under the guidance of the Lord's divine providence** and that all its adherents who believe in the Lord as the Son of God and live by the laws of the Ten Commandments (which they also have) by abstaining from evils as sins, come into a heaven called the **Islamic heaven.**” (Divine Providence 255.1-5)

“Under the Lord's divine providence, every nation has a religion, and the first principle of every religion is a recognition of the existence of God. Otherwise we cannot call it a religion. Every nation that lives by its religion--that is, that does not do evil because it is against its God--is given a spiritual element within its worldly life. **Imagine hearing non-Christians say that they do not want to do some evil thing because it is against their God. Is there anyone who would not say inwardly that these people are saved?**” (Divine Providence 322.4)

“Under divine providence everyone can be saved; and everyone is saved who believes in God and lives a good life. ... There must be some very general principles of this wider church that comprises all religions, so that they do make up one communion. We shall see that these most general principles are **belief in God and living a good life... These are the general principles of all religions, through which everyone can be saved.**” (Divine Providence 325)

**“The Lord has provided that there should be some religion almost everywhere and that everyone who believes in God and does not do evil because it is against God should have a place in heaven.** Heaven, seen in its entirety, looks like a single individual, whose life or soul is the Lord. In that heavenly person there are all the components that there are in a physical person, differing the way heavenly things differ from earthly ones. We know that there are within us not only the parts formed as organs from blood vessels and nerve fibers--the forms we call our viscera. There are also skin, membranes, tendons, cartilage, bones, nails, and teeth. They are less intensely alive than the organic forms, which they serve as ligaments, coverings, and supports. If there are to be all these elements in that heavenly person who is heaven, **it cannot be made up of the people of one religion only. It needs people from many religions;** so all the people who make these two universal principles of the church central to their own lives have a place in that heavenly person, that is, in heaven. They enjoy the happiness that suits their own nature.” (Divine Providence 326.9-10)

**“The Lord provides that there will be some religion everywhere,** and that in every religion there will be the two elements essential to salvation: belief in God, and not doing evil because it is against God.” (Divine Providence 328.8)

**“The nature of heaven is to provide a place there for all who lead good lives, no matter what their religion may be....** It is an insane heresy to believe that only those born in the church are saved. People born outside the church are just as human as people born within it. They come from the same heavenly source. They are equally living and immortal souls. They have religions as well, **religions that enable them to believe that God exists and that they should lead good lives; and all of them who do believe in God and lead good lives become spiritual on their own level and are saved....** Particularly, people outside the church have more of a concept of a personal God than Christians do; and people who have a concept of a personal God and lead good lives are accepted by the Lord. Unlike Christians, they believe in God as one in both person and essence. Further, they think about God as they lead their lives. They treat evils as sins against God; and people who do this are thinking about God as they lead their lives.... Christianity is found only in Europe. Islam and other non-Christian religions are found in Asia, the Indies, Africa, and America; and there are ten times as many people in these latter parts of the world as there are in the Christian part of the world--and relatively few of these latter people make their religion a matter of their lives. What could be more insane than to believe that these and only these individuals are saved, and that the others are damned, that heaven is ours by right of birth and not by conduct of life? That is why the Lord



says, "I tell you that many will come from the east and from the west and will recline with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of the heavens, while the children of the kingdom will be thrown out" (Matthew 8:11-12)." (Divine Providence 330.4-7)

"Seven years ago, when I was remembering that Moses mentions two books called The Wars of Jehovah and The Pronouncements (Numbers 21), some angels became present and said to me that these books were the **ancient Word**.... The angels said that **that Word is still preserved in heaven** and is used by ancient peoples there who had had that Word when they were in the world. ... I have spoken with spirits and angels in the spiritual world who were originally from [the area of Greater Tartary]. They said that they possessed this Word and had done so since ancient times; that they followed this Word in conducting their divine worship; and that their Word consisted entirely of correspondences.... During our conversation they said that they worship Jehovah. Some of them worship Jehovah as a God who can be seen, some as a God who cannot be seen.... The angels and spirits from Great Tartary are found in a southern region toward the east. They are separated from all others by their location on a high plateau. **They do not let in people from the Christian world.** If some manage to climb up to them, they put them under guard to keep them from leaving. The reason for this separation is that **they have a different Word.**" (True Christianity 279)

"**There are indeed many means of being saved**, but each and every one of them relates to living a good life and believing the right things." (True Christianity 340)

"The reason why all are capable of being regenerated and saved is that the Lord is present with, and brings His divine goodness and truth to, every human being. This is the source of everyone's life and everyone's faculty of understanding and will and also everyone's free choice in spiritual matters. No human being is lacking these attributes. Everyone has also been given means that teach commandments concerning good and evil and the idea that there is a God. **Christians find these teachings in the Word; non-Christians find them in whichever religion they are in.**" (True Christianity 580.3)

“As for children and teenagers who were born outside the Christian church, once they develop faith in the Lord, **they are made part of the heaven that is designated for their religion**, but they come there through a different means than baptism. **They do not mix with people who are in the Christian heaven.** There is no such thing as a race of people anywhere on the entire planet who cannot be saved if they acknowledge God and live good lives.” (True Christianity 729)

“Every church that is established by people who see the world through their own convictions appears to them to be the only church with any light; all other churches, which disagree, are in darkness.” (TCR 759)

“There is a heaven for Muslims, just as **there is a heaven for all peoples who acknowledge one God, who love what is just, and who do what is good as a religious practice.** The Muslim heaven is separate from the Christian heaven.” (True Christianity 832)