

The Lakeside



Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday May 29, 2023 – Romans 5:10

10 For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

Read Romans 5 for meditation and inspiration.



REMEMBER & HONOR

Dear Lakesiders and Friends,

In my younger days in the church, we would sing a song with lyrics that went: "Love, love, love the Gospel in a word is Love." How true! I love that expression that states: "LOVE ALWAYS WINS!" Yes, LOVE is the answer, no matter the question. The love of God found in Jesus Christ our Lord, is the ultimate answer to our faith, our hopes, our dreams, our very lives.

In a novel called, "Caught in That Music," a woman named Debbie is going to marry a man named Norman. Debbie's brother, Jonas, doesn't like Norman. He thinks Norman is dull, cold, disagreeable, and unworthy of his sister. Debbie tells her brother to be more tolerant and tries to explain why. She says, "Nothing is ever completely the way you think it is, or the way you'd like it to be. I didn't love Norman right away. He loved me -- so much that I wished I could love him in return. Some people have to see love before they can love." "Is that the way it works?" Jonas asks. "Because he loves you, you love him?" Debbie replies, "Because I am loved, I see what you don't see."

We usually think that it works the other way around. Wouldn't you tend to say, because I love someone, I see in him or her what you don't see? We understand that. But do we understand that in our relationship with God in and through Jesus Christ, it is the other way around? You are first loved by God. It was God's love that brought you into being. And if you see the Divine love, if you see how much God loves you, then you can see something that no one else can see.

Former president Jimmy Carter said in his farewell address to the nation, "America did not invent human rights, it is the other way around. Human rights invented America." As Christians, shouldn't we see things in that same way? Shouldn't we see that as a nation "under God, " it is our caring and compassion that created a great nation and not the other way around?

You see, as Christians, we have in prayer the possibility of the Wisdom from on High, descending upon us from heaven itself. With that wisdom we can in humility discern the will of God for ourselves, our families and even in some caring ways for our country. This is our duty; this is our responsibility, not only to say we remember the cost of our freedom and the sacrifice many made for this country to become a reality but to do what we are able to cause it to be a place for liberty and justice for all.

In the freedom of Christ,



Roger

