

The Lakeside



Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday August 11, 2025 - II Thessalonians 2: 16-17

**16 May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father,
who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal
encouragement and good hope,**

**17 encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every
good deed and word.**

Read II Thessalonians 2 for meditation and inspiration.



THE BEAUTY OF LOVE

Dear Lakesiders and Friends,

A few years ago, at a Maryland livestock auction, a young woman named Susan rescued a newborn calf, which she affectionately named Bucket. Within minutes of bringing the calf home, Bucket discovered the family dog's bed, where she immediately laid down and fell asleep. It was as if the calf said to herself, "This looks comfortable," Susan recalled.

The next day, Colton, the family's St. Bernard, and the calf began running and playing together like dogs. And the next thing Susan noticed amazed her. The animals were snuggling together. "It was so cute," she said, "they were like two peas in a pod." Five years later, the two are best friends, bonded for life. Bucket, now a full-grown adult cow, weighs more than 1,200 pounds. To see "eye-to-eye," she kneels to get down on the St. Bernard's level so they can nuzzle and groom each other. And just like the family dog, Bucket comes when Susan calls. She thinks of Bucket as her "grass puppy" because the cow behaves just like the family dog. "They truly love each other. It's so special to witness," she marvels. "It really has been a beautiful friendship."

Think of all the marvels we have conceived, the homes we've built, the families we've nurtured, and the beautiful friendships we've helped create. We have books to read and music to listen to. We have faith to express and love to give. And all because the Divine Creator has given us a share of His creativity.

So many of life's joys are found in the little instances of awareness that the world is a beautiful gift and a wonderful place to be. The totality of God is so very vast we

can not even begin to comprehend it but we see his work so often in the little things that surround our lives. Like our families and the shared times of adventure along with the times of celebrations and holidays or the quite times of just being together or sharing a meal while being regaled with stories and laughter. All are wonderful moments of life and love filled with hope and renewal.

We hear the phrase, “God is Good!” with the response: “All the Time” then “All the Time,” “God is Good.” So very true.

We were made from creation to enjoy and play in this earthly God given garden as we enjoy our Creator and His gifts.

Enjoy,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Roger".