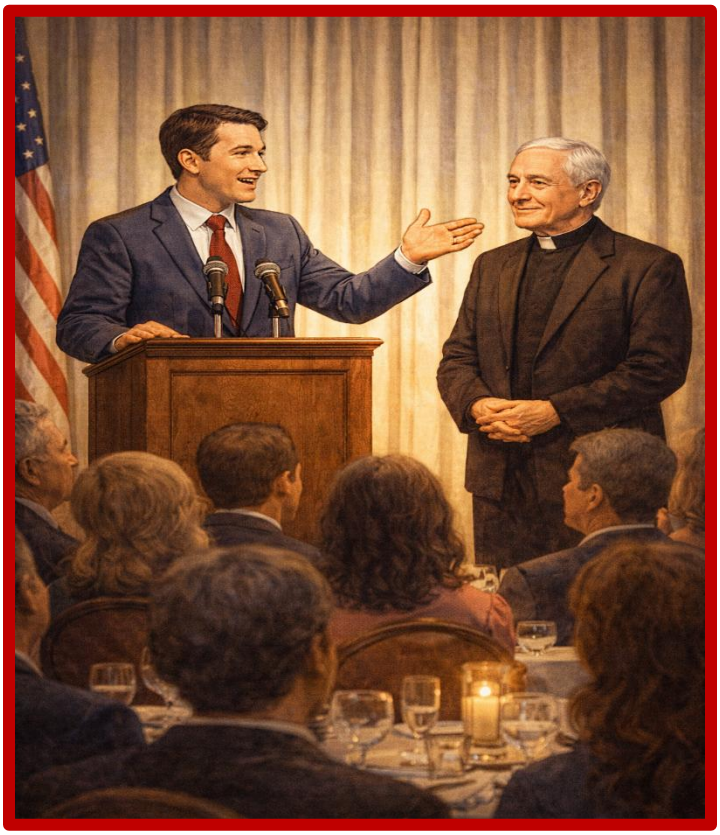


Verse of the day for Monday October 19, 2026 - Titus 1: 7-9

Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless -- not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

Read Titus 1 for meditation and inspiration.



MERCY! PLEASE, PLEASE!!!!!

Dear Lakesiders and Friends,

I love the following lines:

It is no secret
what God can do.
What He's done for others,
He can do for you.

****

There is no difficulty that enough love will not conquer!
There is no grief that enough love will not heal!
There is no door that enough love will not open!
There is no gulf that enough love will not bridge!
There is no wall that enough love will not tear down!
There is no sin that enough love will not redeem!

****

If only we could get in on the secret, if only we could love enough, we would be the most powerful and happiest people in the world.

A Priest was being honored at his retirement dinner after 25 years in the parish. A leading local politician and member of the church was chosen to make the presentation and to give a little talk at the dinner. However, he was delayed, so the Priest decided to say his own few words while they waited

“I got my first impression of the parish from the first confession I heard here. I thought I had been assigned to a terrible place. The very first person who entered my confessional told me he had stolen a television set and, when questioned by the police, was able to lie his way out of it. He had stolen money from his parents; embezzled from his employer; had an affair with his boss’s wife; had sex with his boss’s 17-year-old daughter on numerous occasions, taken illegal drugs; had several homosexual affairs; was arrested several times for public nudity and gave VD to his sister in-law.

I was appalled that one person could do so many awful things. But as the days went on, I learned that my people were not all like that and I had, indeed, come to a fine parish full of good and loving people.”

Just as the Priest finished his talk, the politician arrived full of apologies at being late. He immediately began to make the presentation and gave his talk: “I’ll never forget the first day our parish Priest arrived,” said the politician. “In fact, I had the honor of being the first person to go to him for confession.”

Well, that politician just dug himself into a hole that he would not in his own power escape! How did holocaust survivor Corrie ten Boom say it regarding God’s Love: **"There is no pit so deep, that God's love is not deeper still".** Now there is something to hold on to! God is never, never, never far away.

In Love & Mercy,



Roger