

The Lakeside



Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday October 20, 2025 - Romans 8:28

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose"

Read Romans 8 for meditation and inspiration.



FINDING YOUR WAY

ON A PATH OF GRACE IN A WASTELAND

Dear Lakesiders and Friends,

In an amusing cartoon, two men are sitting on a park bench, engaged in earnest conversation. One says to the other, "Just remember, no man is worthless. He can always be held up as a bad example."

Everything in life that has meaning and value is rooted in God's Grace – even those who sometimes set a bad example (which includes all of us). In the New Testament, St. Paul begins all his letters by reminding the people to whom he was writing of the Grace of God. "Grace be with you," he says. Jesus came to reveal that Grace to us: to show us what it is, to show us that it is real, to show us that it is available. But he also came to show us that we acquire that Grace for our lives through the totality of our response to God. This becomes clearer as we ...

The famous mythologist Joseph Campbell once said in an interview that many of his friends lived "wasteland" lives. "Too many," he said, "were just baffled, wandering in the wasteland without any sense of where the water is – the source of what makes things green." In other words, they are "Baffled and wandering in a wasteland" without any

sense of where to find the source of a fruitful life -- where to find the source of nourishment for the soul -- where to find the source of the wholeness of life.

Jesus gives us a clear and direct answer to this question when He says to His disciples, "I am the Living Bread which has come down from Heaven. Anyone who eats this Bread will live forever."

The New Testament writers tell us repeatedly that God loves us so much that He nourishes us at the center of our being with His own Living Presence. And what they are trying to tell us is that, of all the ways in which God feeds us, there is one that overcomes all others and that is His love from which we can never, never be separated. This is Grace. Grace that is undeserved and unmerited but comes to us never the less. So, we may or may not be considered a "Bad example" But no matter what, God loves us and Jesus displays the fullness of that love on Calvary's Cross. That my friend is GRACE!!!

In the grip of GRACE,

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

Roger