

The Lakeside



Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday May 27, 2024 - Acts 20: 24

24 But I do not count my life of any value to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the good news of God's grace.

Read Acts 20 for meditation and inspiration.



“Fields ripe unto harvest”

Dear Lakesiders and Friends,

The Yearly Gallup poll on Religion in America for 2024 has just been released. Here is a bit gleaned from that report.

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The vast majority of Americans have a religious preference -- predominantly a Christian one -- though that percentage is declining. At the same time, much smaller proportions of Americans say religion is "very important" to them, that they belong to a church or that they regularly attend religious services. In 1955 less than 5% claimed no religious preference. Today it is a whopping 22%! Add to that number 3% refusing to commit to anything. 25% don't have any belief system or faith. Most of us may have assumed that our friends and neighbors may not be going to church but thought if questioned they would say that they believed in God but that is not the case for one-fourth of them. Of course the poll also found that “Over seven in 10 say religion is losing its influence in U.S. society.”

We have just experienced Trinity Sunday which always makes me think of the Apostles' Creed and recounts the core of our beliefs. 'I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. . . I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. . . I believe in the Holy Spirit ...'

Gallup finds make me sad for all of those who are traveling through this life without any faith support system, no Lord directing their foot steps and without the hope of heaven. I know that we have a very special and beautiful faith to share if only we can find the way. Those 25% truly need what we have. Jesus said in the 9th Chapter of Matthew: ³⁵ Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.'

I remember a friend who described evangelism in this way, "Evangelism is one beggar telling another hungry beggar where to find food." The bread of Life is for all beggars, for you and for me!

The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few. So, Lakeside "Come Labor On" and tell them all where to find food.

For the Cause of Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roger".

Roger

