

The Lakeside



Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday July 20, 2026 - Ephesians 2: 10

**"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
which God prepared in advance for us to do."**

Read Ephesians 2 for meditation and inspiration.



GRADUATED: “MAGNA CUTE DENTIUM”

At a large University graduation exercise, the University President rose to address the graduates and confer the degrees. He began by explaining the meaning of the traditional Latin phrases used ...

If a student graduates “Cum Laude,” it means “With Honors.” If a student graduates “Magna Cum Laude,” it means “With High Honors.” If a student graduates “Summa Cum Laude,” it means “With Supreme Honors.” Then he said, “There’s a new one I plan to use in the future that doesn’t sound at all like the regular honors. I call it “Magna Cute Dentium,” which means “By the skin of your teeth.”

In a Gospel episode from Mark’s Gospel which takes place at the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry. Jesus had called Simon, Andrew, James, and John to discipleship. Mark tells us, “Immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and taught” (Mk. 1:21). And we get the definite impression that Jesus’ first-time listeners felt like they barely understood His teaching — as though they would not pass His test but they responded to his power and healing.

The actual message on the other hand continued to be a real mystery for many, The healing power that brought crowds in Mark’s first chapter did not impress the Capernaum scribes and pharisees in the very next chapter

As Jesus continued in His ministry, people would be excited and then fall away. They would welcome him into their towns and then drive him off. In His own home village the pharisees and priests even tried to throw Him off a cliff. Remember Palm Sunday

and the excitement of the crowd praising Him with loud Hosannas? It was followed five days later by the same crowd in the same Jerusalem crying “Crucify him, crucify him.”

The clear message is that neither you nor I can “even by the skin of our teeth” save ourselves. ONLY JESUS, ONLY JESUS can SAVE.

We have the blessing of the Easter Resurrection and thus behold his Glory. Jesus’ mission and message is clear. In Paul’s words, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved!”

The message is clear and we can not fully hold on to Jesus, even by the skin of our teeth, but Jesus can and will hold on to us!

In the strength of the Lord,

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

Roger