

The Lakeside



Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday July 14, 2025 - Deuteronomy 30: 19

19 This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live

Read Deuteronomy 30 for meditation and inspiration.



Dear Lakesiders and Friends,

There is always within us a voice that whispers in our ear, "You are not good enough. You really don't matter to anyone. You are destined to fail." But the much stronger voice that comes from Almighty God says, "You are my child, and nothing can separate you from my love." In the letter of I John, it is recorded the thrust of the two voices. I John 4:3-7 *"3 and every spirit which does not confess Jesus is not of God. This is the spirit of antichrist, of which you heard that it was coming, and now it is in the world already. 4 Little children, you are of God, and have overcome them; for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. 5 They are of the world, therefore what they say is of the world, and the world listens to them. 6 We are of God. Whoever knows God listens to us, and he who is not of God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. 7 Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God."*

The real question is to which voice will you listen and allow to bring peace to your heart and guide your steps.

American physicist and author Alan Lightman tells of a childhood experience that set him on a life-long journey of hope, meaning, and new possibilities. He writes, "I was looking up at the sky one night when I was about ten years old, and I felt like my life didn't matter. And I guess it was converting large space into large time. One star after another star after another star and wondering if that would keep going

forever. I sensed that the universe existed a long time before I was born and would exist a long time after I was dead. And I was just a speck that didn't matter. I don't matter, my parents don't matter, nothing matters. We're all just specks, living in this moment. None of us were here a million years ago -- none of us will be here a million years from now. And the universe doesn't care. It just keeps going on and on and on. So, why are we wasting time going to school, having dentist appointments, and all of that? Why are we wasting our time when none of it matters? And then something happened a few years later – I fell in love. And that changed everything. That mattered despite the reality that we were both just specks in the cosmos."

The fear that there is no ultimate meaning in the universe and their personal lives grips the hearts of many people. Some fight it off by being as busy as possible. Others sink into apathy and, from there, into some form of escape. Psychiatrists specializing in youth problems estimate that 15% of American adolescents suffer from loneliness, fear and depression about their lives.

Love is the answer. The love of God in Jesus is a real antidote for that viewpoint, for that ache in the heart, for that brooding of the mind. You are the apple of God's eye, and someone said God carries your picture in the front of his wallet. That is a liberating thought.

In liberating love,

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

Roger