

# The Lakeside



## Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday October 14 2024 - II Samuel 22: 29

*29 You, LORD, are my lamp; the LORD turns my darkness into light.*

*Read 2 Samuel 22 All Versions*

Read II Samuel 22 for meditation and inspiration.



Dear Lakesiders and Friends,

In Eugene O'Neil's story of a poignant psychological struggle "Days Without End," John Loving, a Roman Catholic boy, prays that his parents, who have been injured, might not die. But their lives were not saved by the kind of miracle he had expected, and he loses his faith. Outwardly, at least, he becomes a skeptic and a cynic. Inwardly, however, John Loving keeps searching deeply for some answer. He tries Eastern religions. He tries philosophical cults. He joins secular meditation groups. He even becomes a member of an atheist club for a while. A friend of his -- a priest -- stands by him through it all.

One evening, when John Loving and his priest friend are discussing the situation, John says, "A new savior must be born who will reveal to us how we can be safe from ourselves." The priest replies quietly, "You forget that men have such a Savior, Jack. All they need is to remember Him." But John Loving is not to remember Him until much later. The setting was a small chapel silhouetted against the sky at dawn. John has been out walking. God is on his mind, yet he is still in a state of rebellion. And so, it is partly against his will that John opens the door of the Chapel and walks in. This same John Loving who had engaged in a life and death conflict with the sneering, cynical element of his psyche which has poisoned his past life, made him prey to false gods, and now seeks to destroy him through suicide. Then, almost before he knows what he is doing, he kneels as he seeks absolution and his tormentor perishes at the foot of the Cross of Jesus where all must come to find the center of life, drawn out of faith into a hope that will not fail and always abounding in steadfast love.

It is a good story and a great story when it happens to us as we meet our Lord at the foot of that same old rugged cross of calvary and give ourselves to Him!

In the beauty of faith,

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

Roger

