

# The Lakeside



## Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday February 17, 2025 - I Chronicles 16: 11

***11 Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always.***

Read I Chronicles 16 for meditation and inspiration.



Dear Lakesiders and friends,

Many of you are familiar with the popular travel sites where you can find great hotels in idyllic settings. Instead of relying on the hotel's marketing hype, you can choose destinations with great customer reviews and trusted five-star ratings. So how would you rate a hotel room with no door, walls, or ceiling? What would you pay to spend a night in such accommodation? Meet the "Zero Star Hotel." Situated next to a gas station in a remote village in Switzerland, as its name implies, this hotel lives up to its rating. And believe it or not, guests pay the equivalent of \$337 US dollars for the privilege of staying there. The zero-star suite comes with butler services, a welcome drink of champagne with a platter of regional appetizers, and breakfast from the local bakery.

To make sense of this, it's essential to know that this unique hotel is the work of two Swiss conceptual artists. They explain that the "Null Stern Hotel" — which translates from German to "Zero Star Hotel" -- is purposefully "anti-idyllic." The owners state that the only star in this setting is you. Amid the global turmoil, many of us have been experiencing sleepless nights. We simply ask for peace and quiet, a place to retreat and feel safe.

But in Scripture, John states in the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter:

*26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.*

The peace in the "Zero Star Hotel" may be enjoyable or even necessary at times but remember that it cannot last. The Peace found in the Prince of Peace, Jesus will last forever.

May God grant you a peace that passes understanding now and always,

Peace,

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

Roger