

Winter is Gone | Blog Posting

By Calvin Culy

Winter is Gone | Video link: www.vimeo.com/4466943

This is my second photo album and I hope to make more in the future. As summer has arrived I took some more photos in my backyard. The song I wrote for this video was meant to capture the warm quiet feeling I so enjoy about summers here in Caronport. You'll notice in the video the titles of the photos. Here are my thoughts on each of the photos and what they mean to me:

Be like the dove. | "In Matthew 10:16 Jesus, as he is sending out his disciples into the surrounding villages, says, 'I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.' When I think of being like a dove, I think of being innocent of evil things. Not just to not do that which is evil, but to have nothing to do with it. To have clean hands."

Panted by the living water. | "This second image builds on the first. In Psalm 1 it says, 'Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked...He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.' I love this. If we are planted and secured by the living water of God's word we don't need to fear the coming drought. We have a supply that the changing world cannot cut off."

What do we feed on? | "If you look closely at this image you'll see a little bug feeding on one of the dead plants. The question what do we feed on asks us if we're feeding on life or death. Are we filling our stomachs with food that will nourish or with stuff that will make us rot? When we feel we are rotting away, looking at what we're filling our lives with might give us a good clue as to why we feel this way."

alive yesterday | "This one is pretty clear I think, but true none the less. Life is short. We are not so different from the dandelion that was alive only a day ago. I think this also speaks of the weakness of man and how little time it takes for someone who is standing tall and seems to be strong to fall down if they aren't careful."

where would I be without you? | "I think this is one of my favorite pictures from this album. I chose this title as a question asked from the wood structure to the bolt. If it weren't for the bolt the wood structure would fall apart. This small part of the entire structure is essential to it. What things in our life if suddenly taken away would cause us to fall to pieces? Perhaps we are less secure than we thought."

we are the branches | "John 15: 5 says, 'I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.' Everything that is done apart from the will of God will be a waste and will come to nothing. If we're not connected to Jesus, then we are by default, living apart from God. He is the only way to God."

my temporary home | "I live here for now, but I won't for very long. I don't mean because I'm moving somewhere else, but my life here on this earth is short; it will only last a few more years. When I die I will go to my eternal home to worship God. I am glad this is only my temporary home as when my time is up here, I will be ready to go."

this dirt didn't grow petals | "Haha, I love this title. To me it is almost said with surprise by a stupid gardener. Wow..this dirt didn't grow petals. How often we expect dirt to grow petals. We invest in dumb things or even just sit around and don't invest in good things and then expect good results. Bad things aren't grown from good plants..good things aren't grown from bad plants."

love the sunlight | "Light exposes things. Good things...and bad things that would seek to remain hidden. We can only truly love the light when our lives are transparent and we have nothing to hide."

what lies on the other side? | "What happens when we die? We're all so sure aren't we. We all have it figured out with an answer that makes us feel like what we're doing right now, will leave us in the best position when we die. But how sure are we? And what does it matter how sure we are if the truth is much different than the pretty picture we're holding up to block it out of our view?"

green through white | "I love the lessons we can learn from creation. Here I'm referring to the pine needles staying green through the winter. When everything else turns brown and withers they remain green. To me it's a reminder of God's faithfulness, that even when everything else withers or even when our circumstances seem really bad, He's always there and He doesn't change."

it stunts our growth | "What are things that tie us up? The general busyness of life? Perhaps our dreams and ambitions...or the things we enjoy. If we chase after these things with too much of our heart we will find we've lost something far more important when we reach them. What good does it do a man to gain the whole world and lose his soul?"

the power of death is broken | "I can imagine the explosion of dirt as the fresh sprouts burst from the ground in victory! The power of death is broken each year as new life is birthed in the spring. The power of death is also broken through what Jesus Christ did on a cross so many years ago in taking our wrongs on himself and then rising again from the dead. Death holds no power over those who are in Christ."

cool shade has its place | "See my finger in this picture? Haha, I thought it was funny..didn't even notice it until the video was done..haha..wow..k. So, my thoughts for this one are pretty simple. There's a time to work hard in the sun..and a time for a rest in the shade. If we work hard and take a break and then go back to work we can get a good bit done right? If we work and work and don't take a break, we'll get weak and maybe a skin disease..and then our break will be muuuch longer...and we might not be able to get back to work at all. So take a few breaks! Not too many..but don't work yourself to death eh."

here today, gone tomorrow | "Like the grass of the field we are here today and gone tomorrow.

Once we weren't, and now we are,
But God, he always is.
Now we are; now won't last.
God, he always is.
Soon we won't be anymore,
But God, he always is."

the sin that entangles | "Sin often isn't like...BAM! It kinda sneaks in...whispers a word here or there..and then before you know it..your totally tied up and can't escape. Just like the small plants that have grown on this tree in my backyard over the winter. Though they may have been insignificant at one time..and even for right now don't seem to terrible, they could be the death of this tree if something drastic isn't done to remove them."

we are small | "Mmm, I like this picture. Such a warm, little feeling. We think about ourselves so much don't we. Always doing our thing, always concerned about our needs being met. If we took a moment to step back and look at the whole world...the whole universe. Man..we're so small. I mean really small. And yet God..who is not bound by size or time cares about little me and little you."

And those are my thoughts! Thanks for reading! I'm hoping, as I said, to have more of these videos up in the future, but I'm not sure now as I'd have to buy a video editing program (the demo ran out :P) and that might be dumb as I'm saving up for university haha.

For a quick personal update, I will continue working at the college through the summer here before leaving for Vancouver in the fall, probably in August. I'm hoping to have more posts in the future, but you never can tell...:) Until next time,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Calvin Culy' with a stylized flourish at the end.

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