



OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

How To Find God's Beauty in the Midst of Midterms

That dreaded time of year is finally upon us.

In my bible study this week, we talked about why God would keep us on earth after we become Christians, instead of just swooping us up to be with him right away. Everyone had good answers, but one that came up that spoke to me was that God is proud of His creation. As God is creating the earth in Genesis, we are constantly reminded that He “saw that it was good.” And He put man and woman on earth to experience its goodness. We see real examples of this all the time. For those of us who have spent time outside a big city, the stars are especially bright and dense. Others of us have cherished pets, or just have an appreciation for animals in general. We all love classic animals like lions or zebras, domesticated dogs and cats, but there is even an intricacy to insects and spiders, colorful lizards or schools of fish. And then the pinnacle of God's work: humans. Not only are humans beautiful and diverse and complicated, but we are made in God's image. The more we cultivate an appreciation for God's beauty, the more our brothers and sisters in Christ become a window to the glory of God.

And yet, how many distractions can we find in a day? Screw that guy who rolled through a stop sign and cut me off, and that professor who scheduled that test at the absolute worst possible time so now I have to study all night. And then that all-

nigher killed my patience so the sunrise is just annoyingly bright. Or that person is gossiping and I disapprove of that so naturally I have to gossip about them. It builds and builds until menial inconveniences become roadblocks in our walk with God. There's nothing wrong with stress or working hard, but even that is to be done for the glory of God.

His glory is evident all around us, and sometimes we just need to pause our busy schedule to appreciate it.

Keep up the good habits of being in the Word, prayer, and working hard. But maybe as the semester starts rolling out midterms, we should take a moment to notice all the beautiful things God has placed around us. The rolling whites of clouds set in front of a bright blue sky, awkward thrusting steps of a child just learning to walk, and for my coffee lovers out there, the first sip of that great cup in the morning.

We know that the Bible is God-breathed so we adhere to its words, but all of creation is God-breathed, because His words brought it into existence. As we appreciate the glory of His creation, we can delve deeper into our relationship with Him. And that, in itself, is also a beautiful thing. 



by **TIMOTHY DYKES**

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Timothy is his given name, but his friends call him Timo, for short. He is currently a senior at Florida State University and majoring in International Affairs and Political Science, as well as minoring in Computer Science. When he's not studying, he's a student leader at FSU Cru and Bridges. He tends to get very passionate about sports (especially college football) and has strong opinions about black coffee, Pluto, the IMF, and probably a lot of other stuff.

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