

WINDSTREAM – Thoughts on Nature and the Christian Faith



There is a small stream which cuts through our property. In the heat of the summer, it sometimes dries up completely, but in the rest of the year we enjoy the sound of running water as it cascades over this little waterfall. Except in the winter. Then the steady flow solidifies into ice. The little waterfall transforms into columns of intricate beauty. I know, however, that this will not last. As the temperature rises, an alteration will occur. The ice will change to water once again. I enjoy the changes that come with the seasons, the changing panorama that spring, summer, fall, and winter bring for us to enjoy. But not all change is good. The center of our faith, the good news of the gospel, must never change. Other aspects of the Christian faith do change, trends in music, cultural adaptations in how the church can relate to the world, and even technologies used to spread the gospel all have, and will continue to change. But the heart of the gospel should never be altered. Sadly, alterations are being made to what God has said must never be altered. The doctrine of justification is currently under attack. Popular authors, both without and within the church, have compromised the central core of our faith. And tragically, many church-goers haven't even discerned the changed message. Martin Luther, during the Protestant Reformation, said that the church is always in need of reformation. It certainly is true today. It would behoove us all to reacquaint ourselves with the issues that were addressed during the time of Luther. The central issue was how can a sinful man be accepted by a holy God? Today that question doesn't seem to bother anyone. It should. Waterfalls are altered from ice to liquid as the times change. The center of our faith should not. - John