

Title – Psalm 46: A Visual Narrative

Program of Study – Photography

Presentation Type – Choose one of the following: Juried Arts

Subtype – Choose one of the following for poster or oral presentation types: 2D
Photography

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Abstract

As a Christian photographer, the problem arises of how to communicate the gospel visually. How can photographs represent Bible passages? Moreover, how can they represent biblical values without falling into what the world sees as the negative trope of “Christian media?” The answer is to think outside the box. Most often, Christian media is looked down upon for its clichés. So as a Christian photographer, though this project my objective is to visually communicate the essence of Psalm 46 in a fresh light. Psalm 46 is about how great God is amidst trials and tribulations. Nothing in this world is bigger than God’s omnipotence, and as Christians we should seek His face amongst all the darkness and muck in this world. In response to this, I created three consecutive conceptual photographs demonstrating the idea that if we cling to God, everything will be alright in the end. I produced the pictures by shooting portraits of a friend in the East Campus tunnel: two medium-wide shots and one close-up. I had my subject look as if she was running towards the end of the tunnel, then at the end of the tunnel I had her look up to the sky. I overexposed the area at the end of the tunnel and made it look like it was sending off beams of sunshine, to demonstrate heaven. The area behind my subject I made dark, blue-tinted and dingy-looking to represent the cold reality of the world that Christians are called to flee from. I believe my series of photographs succeeded in visually communicating elements from Psalm 46, and in the future I am confident that I can further explore effective visual narration of many more Bible passages.

My Christian worldview has informed my research design in shaping what I choose to

pursue in my visual storytelling. In modern society, there are thousands of photographers, but only a handful of them are actively, publicly Christian in and through their works. As a photography student here at Liberty, I know my objective both at this university and in the world is to be a “Champion for Christ.” What better way to do that than to use my God-given talent for His glory? I know the Lord has given me creative passions and gifts so I can use them to further His kingdom. Thus, I decided to use photography to communicate truths from the Bible that I hold dear to my heart. I chose a Psalm that carries a personal meaning to me, Psalm 46. I sought to communicate the idea from the Psalm that God is always with us and is greater than the troubles that we face in this world. Thus, I created a visual narration consisting of three consecutive photographs. I believe my communication of biblical passages through photographs is impactful within the culture at large because society today is very visual. I believe photographs carry immense weight and impact within society, especially with the popularity of social media platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, etc. By creating visual narratives of Bible passages and sharing them online, I can draw attention to what the photographs represent. Biblical visual narrations can thus have a significant impact on the culture at large.