

I grew up misunderstanding the Bible. Though I was washed in God's word, I did not see God for who he is. I was fearful of God's law and hell, but rather than viewing God and his word as what I was accountable to, I saw myself as accountable to those around me. In my mind, if no one saw me, I could do whatever I wanted. During my freshman year of college, God made my sin clear. I saw the chasm between God's standard and how I lived. Though this made me fear God's judgement, the song of my soul did not change – I still loved seeking joy apart from God. If something was going to change, it would not be due to my efforts.

God, in his mercy, lit the kindling that he had placed through patient ministers of his word. At the age of 19, God used the words of Isaiah 6 to show me who he is; the sovereign Lord of all creation. I finally saw myself as a sinner held accountable to my creator who has no hope of purifying himself. Isaiah's words in Isaiah 6:4 were my own; "Woe is me! For I am lost."

I finally understood why Jesus came – to save those who willingly seek satisfaction outside of God yet find only death. In that moment, Christ drew me to himself. Since then, he has been faithful to grow me through his word and produce the fruit of works in my life that testify to His grace. I was baptized July 2006.