

Title: The moment I knew I needed help (SIN)

Text: Ephesians 2:1-3

INTRODUCTION (Slide 1):

Angel 1: *“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.” (Isa 6:3)*

Angel 2: *“I am the LORD who brought you up out of Egypt to be your God; therefore be holy, because I am holy. (Lev 11:45)*

Angel 3: *“Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” (Matt 5:48)*

All Three: *“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.” (Rev 4:8)*

HOLINESS OF GOD (the beauty, the dread and the function):

1. The BEAUTY of God’s holiness

The **BEAUTY** is amazing. Almost Edenic in the life. I thought Avatar looked good in 3D on the IMAX.

The **LIGHT** is unlike anything I have ever seen before - bright, vivid colors I have never seen before and yet penetrating and permeating. No shadows, no darkness at all.

The **MUSIC** so clear and soothing. The angelic voices so clean.

The **ATMOSPHERE** peace, purity, joy. No fear. No worry. No danger.

I want to get near, but I am afraid of that **THRONE**.

2. The TERROR of God’s holiness

Yet, there is something **QUITE DREADFUL** over there. From that throne in the middle comes **fire, earthquake, thunder and lightning, a loud trumpet blast, thick smoke.**

In one sense, I want to draw near. In another, I am afraid too.

Wonder if I should just stay on this side. I don’t quite understand all this.

3. The FUNCTION of God's holiness

Angel 1: *The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for the thousandth generation, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, yet by no means clearing the guilty, but visiting the iniquity of the parents upon the children and the children's children to the third and fourth generation. (Exod. 34:6-7)*

Are you saying God is BOTH MERCIFUL AND JUST? That's all fine. I guess somebody needs that. I just need you to help me with my refinace. You seen some wise guy on Wall Street created these ARM loans that first seemed...

Angel 1: *"YOUR SINS are like scarlet, they are red as crimson" (Isa 1:18)*

Angel 2: *YOU are filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. YOU are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. YOU are a gossiper, slanderer, God-hater, insolent, arrogant and boastful; YOU invent ways of doing evil; YOU disobey their parents; YOU are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Although YOU know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, you not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them. (Rom 1:29-32)*

Angel 3: *The acts of YOUR sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn YOU, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. (Gal 5:19-21)*

All Three: *"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come." (Rev 4:8)*

My corruption to SIN (Eph 2:1) - (Slide 2):

Not good customer service:

Now wait a minute angel. You are getting too personal here. You are talking to the wrong person. This isn't **MY** epitaph, **MY** resume, **MY** life.

I have read about **SUCH PEOPLE** in the world. I see them in the movies, the newspapers and history books.

Come now God doesn't really focus on such things at least not in **MY** life. He sees the good deeds I do. I go to church. I pay my bills. I work, pay taxes. I take care of my family. I am quite offended that you would call **ME** such names. This isn't the God I thought I would see in heaven. Where is the mansion? Where is the stuff? The harp and cloud. Eternal bliss.

Beside you know this is not good customer service to welcome people this way. Perhaps you should let up a bit. You know take a chill pill. You know Dr. Phil says that stress is tied to expectations. Perhaps you have the wrong expectations over us. If you would just cut some slack, then you wouldn't be so upset over this "sin" thing.

Defining sin and trespasses:

*Eph. 2:1 And **YOU** were dead in **YOUR** trespasses and sins, (On the screen behind me)*

There is that word again, "**YOU**" and "**YOUR**". Do you have to make it so personal?

"Trespasses and sins" - aren't those simply "mistakes and accidents." "Trespass" means "to simply go in the wrong direction, to slip or fall." "Sin" the idea of "missing the mark." I guess you mean the mark of your standard. Nobody's perfect. You can't blame us for that. Before You, I am a rebel and failure. I don't get it.

Examples of my sin:

Ticket. Why do you get upset over issues that really aren't that big? So I exaggerated a bit when I told the police man about how fast I was driving. You realize that the government takes too much of my money anyways. I know you are for small government. Tickets are just another tax. It was my way of fighting an unjust system. Don't you agree? You don't.

Spending time at work organizing the football pool. Isn't that a great idea? Build team morale. Get's new people involved. What don't I ask my boss if I can do it? Well, because he will say, "No." That why. You know how grumpy he is. Can you fix him? He can be a real pain. What do mean that is rebellion? No its' not. You really don't expect me to follow people who are idiotic in their ways. You do. What do You mean **YOU** put him their? I think that was a bad idea. Can I give you some advice on how to better rule your universe? No. You are doing fine without my advice.

No, we are not going to go there. What happens in Your house is Your business and what happens in my house is my business. You want to talk about where I go on the **internet**. There You go, using that “P” word. Those **pornography web sites**. That’s adultery. Now You are crossing the line. What do You mean I am cheating? It is just looking. I am still faithful to my wife. I am not sleeping with someone else. You say my mind is. Well who draws the line there. Isn’t that unrealistic? Don’t you only care about actions? You care about thoughts too. So if I find satisfaction is someone other than my wife, that is cheating.

Just because, I deceive a cop that does not make me a liar.

Just because I am not going to follow my boss, that does not make me a rebel.

And certainly, just because I visit a few sites on the internet, that certainly does not make an adulterer.

It’s NOT my deeds that the problem. It’s my NATURE.

Dead and incapable of ANY spiritual good...

And say that makes me **DEAD**. Don’t feel dead. Sure I struggle with some weight issues. Got to watch that cholesterol. No, I am dead to you. What do You mean by that? That I am alive to physical matters, but that I am dead with regard to spiritual matters. That I am lifeless. I disagree. I go to church. I serve. I give. Those acts are not what I require. You say I think I am near you, but I am far, alienated. No I am not. That is ridiculous. **Watch I will come close right now.**

(Step down and get pushed back by the angels)

All Three: *“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.” (Rev 4:8)*

I think you are taking this sin thing way too serious.

I am responsible. I am hardworking.

I am my own man.

No one controls my own. No one tell me what to do.

My captivity to SATAN (Eph 2:2) - (Slide 3):

Angel 1: *YOU BELONG to your father, the devil, and YOU WANT to carry out YOUR FATHER'S desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (John 8:44)*

Angel 2: *"The great dragon was hurled down – that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him." (Rev. 12:9)*

Angel 3: *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; (John 10:10)
You are ensnared by the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will. (2 Tim 2:26)*

All Three: *"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come." (Rev 4:8)*

Let me tell you something. Nobody over here takes that "Satan" thing seriously. The idea of some phantasm figures lurking in the background is just another child's story.

After all, it scares the kids.

Eph. 2:2 in which YOU formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to **the prince of the power of the air**, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. (On the screen behind me)

Are you saying there is an ALIEN PRINCE that RULES over me?

That there is entity that causes me to walk **IN TUNE WITH THE SONG OF THIS WORLD** where he orchestrates sinful people to create oppressive and deadly systems that enslave, belittle, torture and destroy people.

That this being influence is so wide that it must simple be in the air. Just as air is everywhere and **AFFECTS EVERYTHING**, this alien prince is working with my sin to dominate my life.

That just as air in **INVISIBLE**, his forces are not visible to my eyes.

That there is a **PRINCE** over this domain and his name is Satan. He is over the demonic.

That he knows how to **TEMPT** me, to indulge my flesh, to cause me to stumble or fall.

Sons of Disobedience. Are you saying that I AM ONE OF HIS CHILDREN?

I think I would know who is my father. I don't think I would miss it.

Angel 2: *Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God (1 Pet 5:8; 2 Cor. 4:4)*

{Aggravated}

That is ridiculous. Maybe you have been reading too many **Stephen King** novels. There is no need for us to bring up make believe figures that prowl in the darkness on unsuspecting figures. Let me just show you that I am in full control...

Angel 2: “Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God’s interests, but mans.”

{Step down and get pushed back - Uneasy}

All Three: *“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.” (Rev 4:8)*

You seem quite upset about all this. You are NOT overreacting

My condemnation to HELL (Slide 4):

- Angel 1:** *The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. (Rom 1:18-20)*
- Angel 2:** *The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your saints and those who reverence your name, both small and great – and for destroying those who destroy the earth.” (Rev 11:18)*
- Angel 3:** *Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. (Rev 20:11-15)*
- All Three:** *“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.” (Rev 4:8)*

Can't believe You played the Hell card.
I don't believe in Hell and I don't in a god who has a temper and flies off the handle.
My god is always kind and good to me.
In my opinion, Hell was created by televangelist and megachurch preachers to manipulate the weak-willed out of there money.

Eph. 2:3 You live in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and are by nature a **CHILD OF WRATH**, even as the rest. (On the screen behind me)

What is this “wrath of God”? What is He angry at? **Evil in me. My NATURE.** Naw, it couldn't be that bad.

He would never say such harsh words to me. After all, I go to church. I help out with others. I give occasionally. I do call, “Jesus, my Lord.”

Angel 3: *“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’ (Matt 7:21-23)*

{Uncomfortable/Frightened}

Can't we talk about this? Can't I show you what I have done? Can't we make some compromise here?

Remember, I am one of the good guys.

I always thought God is loving and kind. I never considered His wrath that judges.

I don't deserve Hell? Can't we talk about this, why can't we just sit down and talk...

{Goes down on the steps and gets pushed back again}

All Three: *“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.” (Rev 4:8)*

Conclusion - How do I get over there?

Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD?
And who may stand in His holy place?

Angel 1: He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
Who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood,
And has not sworn deceitfully.
He who walks with integrity, and works righteousness,
And speaks truth in his heart.

Angel 2: He does not slander with his tongue,
Nor does evil to his neighbor,
Nor takes up a reproach against his friend;
In whose eyes a reprobate is despised,
But who honors those who fear the LORD;

Angel 3: He swears to his own hurt, and does not change;
He does not put out his money at interest,
Nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.
He who does these things will never be shaken. (Psalm 15, 24)

All Three: *“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.” (Rev 4:8)*

Nobody is going to be able to do all this.

So is that it. I am a sinner. I am bound by Satan. I am under God’s wrath and doomed to hell.

Is there no way across this gulf? No bridge? No pathway? No means for me to draw near?

Is there no hope? No manner. No bridge. Am I truly destined for wrath?

Are You going to leave us this way?

Is that what are you saying?

Is there any hope for me?

Every time I try to come to You, I get pushed back. I can’t make it to You. Can you do something to make it to me.

Aren’t You going to do anything about it?

BUT GOD (Slide 5) - All doors to the sanctuary open and people leave in silence.

And

YOU

**were dead in your
trespasses and sins.**

My corruption to Sin
Ephesians Two:One

in which YOU formerly walked
according to the course of this
world. according to

THE PRINCE

OF THE POWER OF THE AIR.

of the spirit that is
now working in the
sons of disobedience.

My captivity to SATAN

Ephesians Two:Two

**YOU live in the lusts of your flesh,
indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind,
and are by nature a**

CHILD OF

WRATH

even as the rest.

My condemnation to HELL
Ephesians Two:Three

DARKNESS
GREED
ANGER
BETRAYAL
ADULTERY
ABUSE
FAILURE
JUDGMENT
CRUELTY

BUT GOD

IMMORALITY
SHAME
LIFE
INTEGRITY
PURPOSE
LIFE
LIGHT
LOW
PURPOSE
LIFE
INTEGRITY
PURPOSE

CONDEMNATION
ARRAIGNANCE
RUTH
GRACIOUS
BY FAITH
HUMILITY
GRATITUDE

STRENGTH
FREEDOM
OBEDIENCE
GENEROSITY
ASSURANCE
GENTLENESS
FULFILLMENT
COMPASSION
SELF-CONTROL
JUSTIFICATION
FAITHFULNESS
ACCEPTANCE
FORGIVENESS
CONFIDENCE
CONSIDERATE
PURPOSE
CHARITY
ETERNAL LIFE
HONESTY
WISDOM
OBEDIENCE
PURITY

**the moment B.C.
became A.D.**

to be continued...

