Thoughts on Sin and Salvation

- 1. Three categories of sin problems.
 - Ontological problems, that is problems arising from the condition of our being. (1.) Because of Adam and Eve's sin, all their descendants are spiritually dead when physically born due to the consequence of their sin. (2.) All Adam and Eve's descendants are born with a sin nature that inclines them to sin.
 - Legal problems, that is problems arising from actual failure to live in obedience to God's moral law and in accordance with His revealed character. (1.) There is a legal death penalty for sins committed. (2.) There is a legal requirement to be righteous as defined by God's moral law.
 - Relationship with God problems. Because they are unholy, fallen people cannot live in the direct presence of God and cannot approach God directly,
- 2. Salvation provides solutions for each category of sin.
 - The first step is an Ontological step of regeneration providing new spiritual life. Regeneration is totally of God in which the recipient is totally passive. Regeneration is carried out by God to whom He chooses at the time He chooses.
 - The second and third steps are Legal steps. Second step: The death penalty for committed sins is pardoned based on Jesus willingly giving Himself to die in the place of those condemned by their sins. Third step: Based on the legal righteousness of justification that Jesus vicariously earned for sinners by living a perfectly obedient life under the law, each regenerated sinner is declared legally righteous (justified).

- The fourth step is a Relationship step in which the regenerated, pardoned, justified sinner is adopted into God's family providing direct access to God.
- The fifth step is an Ontological step of transformation in which the indwelling sin nature is progressively suppressed through a process of sanctification (making holy) through the work of the indwelling Holy Spirit.
- The sixth step is an Ontological step in which, at mortal death, the soul of the adopted child of God is glorified (made righteous and holy as God is righteous and holy).
- The seventh and final step is an Ontological step in which the glorified soul is joined to a glorified resurrection body completing the transformation from sinner with a fallen spirit, intellect, and body to a person with a glorified spirit, intellect, and body.