A 3–D Approach to What We Believe:
Doctrine, Discernment, & Discipline
Understanding Our Human Nature:
Why Gratitude Matters!

—from Romans 5:18–21 & 6:15–23

The Human Condition

We believe that God created Adam & Eve in His image, but they sinned when tempted by Satan. In union with Adam, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, & under His wrath. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled & renewed.

Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God & fully man, one Person in two natures. Jesus—Israel's promised Messiah—was conceived through the Holy Spirit & born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven & sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest & Advocate.

The Work of Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative & substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death & victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation.

The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, & in Him they are baptized into union with Christ & adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips & empowers believers for Christ-like living & service.

—Understanding Today's Emphasis:

The _____ of our ***GRATITUDE TO GOD***

for *RESCUING* us from the ***PENALTY FOR OUR SIN***

_____ the _____of our **FAITH**!

Three Questions To Help Introduce Our Study:

If I'm **rescued from the penalty for sin by God's grace and my faith**, why should I still be **concerned about sin?**

As a faithful follower of Christ, I'm ***free from the penalty of sin***, but in this life on earth, can I ever become ***free from the problem of sin*****?**

How can my **gratitude to God** become an ***instrument to strengthen my faith*** and ***to protect me from falling into sin*****?**

Recognizing the "Biblical" <u>Context/Content</u> of Today's Study:
Romans 1–8 explains & emphasizes the MEANING & MESSAGE of being RESCUED, RECONCILED, & RENEWED by God!

—1) _____ to being RESCUED!

—All people are Helpless & hapless *<u>SLAVES</u>* *<u>TO</u>* *<u>SIN</u>*!
***<u>ALIENATED</u>* from God …**
& under His *<u>WRATH</u>*!

—2) God's _____

—For while we were *<u>HELPLESS</u>*, at the *<u>PERFECT</u>* *<u>TIME</u>*
<u>Christ</u> <u>died</u> as a *<u>SUBSTITUTE</u>* for the <u>ungodly</u>. **{Romans 5:6–8}**

—3) _____ **with God**

—By *<u>FAITH</u>*, being *<u>DECLARED</u>* *<u>RIGHTEOUS</u>* by God the Judge,
we have *<u>PEACE</u>* with God through the
<u>righteous</u> <u>act</u> of our Lord Jesus Christ. **{Romans 5:1; 5:18–21}**

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—4) _____ sanctification *(the process of becoming more & more righteous/holy)*

—FREEDOM from the PENALTY for sin, but not the PROBLEM of sin.
No longer CONDEMNED …
but still facing the TEMPTATION & TENDENCY to sin!

—5) _____ sanctification

—The *PROCESS* thru–out our lives of being _____ into the image of Christ. … With the help of God's Spirit, we're being *TRANSFORMED* from being

SLAVES TO SIN
—to—
***SLAVES TO RIGHTEOUSNESS*!**

—6) _____ sanctification

—That state of *HOLINESS* that we'll experience when we're finally in the presence of God!
***FULL FREEDOM* from the POWER of SIN!**

Reflecting on the "Biblical" Content of Today's Study: {Romans 6:12–23]

—1—If I'm **rescued (FORGIVEN) from the penalty for sin by God's grace and my faith**, why should I still be **concerned about sin?**

—Sin is a _____ that will _____ our lives as long as we _____ it to do so.

—As faithful followers of Christ, we're _____ by God's Spirit to become _____ from the slavery to sin.

—Whenever we _____ sin to _____ over our lives, we become _____ !

—2— As a faithful follower of Christ, I'm ***free from the penalty of sin***, but in this life on earth, can I ever become ***free from the problem/power of sin*?**

—Every person who _____ in the _____ of Christ, our Substitute, is _____ from the penalty of sin!

—This faith that provides our forgiveness initiates an _____ _____ with the Lord that _____ our _____ with His Holy Spirit.

—God desires us to _____ on Him because just like our salvation, sanctification is a GIFT from God, not an effort of our work.

—3— How can my **gratitude to God** become an ***instrument to strengthen my faith*** and ***to protect me from falling into sin*?**

—Romans 6:17–18 **But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you've experienced a heart change when you trusted in the Gospel of God's grace and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.**

—2 Corinthians 9:15 **All gratitude and glory belong to God for his indescribable gift!**

—Once we grasp the **greatness** and **glory** of God's **grace**, our hearts are changed and our **gratitude** changes our outlook.

—Our ***desire to obey*** Him _____ as our _____ increases.

—Our ***expressions*** of ***gratitude*** become more focused on _____ !