

Sermon Topic: Stairway to heaven? – Romans 3-5, 2 Corinthians 5:21 – Matt Cassidy

Introduction: Today's sermon had two purposes. The first was to explain the Gospel message through two key concepts, substitutionary atonement and imputed righteousness. The second was to equip believers in how to share with someone who trust in their own goodness to make them acceptable to God.

Study Questions:

- 1. How is a ladder used in various ways as a metaphor for some aspect of life? If you were to describe yourself as climbing a ladder, what would your ladder either lead to or come from, ex. Are you climbing up to something or out of something?**
- 2. We believe that there is life after death and you go to either a good place or a bad place. How do you think people you know would answer the question, "How do you get to the good place?" How would you describe the ladder of morality? What surprises you about the way Mother Teresa and Billy Graham describe their view of their own goodness?**
- 3. In Romans 3:22b – 23 we read, "There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..." (Note: 1) it includes everyone 2) we sin therefore we need forgiveness 3) even our self-righteousness comes up short of perfection.) How does this explain Mother Teresa and Billy Graham's view of their goodness and the value of their good works to make themselves acceptable to God?**
- 4. Explain the concept of "Substitutionary Atonement." Read Romans 3:21-26. Why did we need Jesus to make atonement for our sin? What would it have taken for us to atone for our own sin? What would be your reasonable response if someone came into your life and paid every debt that you owed?**
- 5. Explain the concept of "Imputed Righteousness." Read Romans 4:3-8. Why did we need righteousness credited to us? What would be your reasonable response if someone, not only paid every debt that you owed but, also, gave you more money than you'd ever use?**
- 6. Read 2 Corinthians 5:21. Summarize what this passage says Jesus did for us. How do we personally and individually transfer our trust from our own good works (ladder of morality) to accepting Jesus' forgiveness and righteousness? Do you have confidence that this transaction has taken place in your life? If not, what is preventing you from trusting Jesus in this way?**
- 7. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-20. What responsibility does His entrust to us who have believed in Him? How can you take steps to fulfill your ambassadorship to those unrecognized to God? How can this be expressed this week?**