

## SERMON No. X.

## THE CHRISTIAN LADDER.

The Christian ladder is composed of four rungs, viz., repentance, faith, justification, and sanctification. Repentance is a godly sorrow for sin, produced in the heart of a person by the Spirit and the Word. This condition of the heart is the first essential to salvation. For reference along these lines see Luke 13: 3; Jonah 3; Psalms 51; Matt. 3: 2; 4, 17; Mark 6: 12; II. Cor. 7: 10; Acts 2: 38.

Faith is the second rung in the ladder, and without this faith it is impossible to please God. Heb. 11: 6. Paul makes this step very plain in Romans 5, 1, and in Romans 7. He describes the natural man under conviction, and leads him on to justification in the following chapter.

After these two rungs have been climbed, we reach justification, or the new birth. This change of state was plainly taught by Christ Himself in John 3. With this change comes a definite witness: Psalms 51: 12; Luke 10: 20; Romans 5: 1; Romans 8: 15; I. John 4: 13. In I. John 3, Rom. 6, Col. 3, we find how each converted person lives. Only he who lives up to the three last-mentioned chapters is a fitted candidate for sanctification, or perfect love. The carnal nature exists in the converted man