

## **BELGIC CONFESSION - ARTICLE 23**

### **Wherein Our Justification Before God Consists**

We believe that our salvation consists in the remission of our sins for Jesus Christ's sake, and that therein our righteousness before God is implied; as David and Paul teach us, declaring this to be the happiness of man, that God imputes righteousness to him without works.<sup>1</sup> And the same apostle says, *that we are justified freely by His grace, through the redemption which is in Jesus Christ.*<sup>2</sup>

And therefore we always hold fast this foundation, ascribing all the glory to God, humbling ourselves before Him, and acknowledging ourselves to be such as we really are, without presuming to trust in any thing in ourselves or in any merit of ours, relying and resting upon the obedience of Christ crucified alone, which becomes ours when we believe in Him.<sup>3</sup> This is sufficient to cover all our iniquities and to give us confidence in approaching God; freeing the conscience of fear, terror, and dread, without following the example of our first father, Adam, who, trembling, attempted to cover himself with fig leaves. And truly, if we should appear before God relying on ourselves or on any other creature, though ever so little, we should, alas! be consumed. And therefore every one must pray with David: *O Lord, enter not into judgment with Thy servant: for in Thy sight shall no man living be justified.*<sup>4</sup>

### **Verses for Consideration**

1. Psalm 32:1-2; Romans 4:5-8
2. Romans 3:23-24
3. Romans 4:2-5
4. Psalm 143:2

### **Questions for Consideration**

1. What is meant when the Confession says that righteousness is "imputed" to us?
2. Why is it important that Jesus was perfectly obedient?
3. Why are we not able to rely on our own works and merits for salvation?