

Scripture: Romans 3:19-4:8

LD 23.59

Singing: 251:1-3 – 9:1-3 – 190:1, 2, 4 – 422:5-6

Intro: A good question to always ask: *what is the profit of this?*

A. The real profit is in *believing* all God has revealed in the Gospel

B. Who is God *especially* addressing in the Gospel as echoed in Lord's 23?

1. The weak or confused believer (Mark 8:24)

2. LD 23 sums up the comfort of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for *all believers*

a. LD 23 is not only true for a few privileged believers

b. LD 23 is not something we learn only by a very special revelation

c. LD 23 is not something we only learn at the end of long journey

d. LD 23 is not something that is easy to believe

The Profit of Faith in Jesus' Gospel: I am righteous and an heir of eternal life

A. The question: *What profit does it to you now that you believe "all this"?*

1. What is 'all this?'

2. Who is addressed?

3. When is this profit gained?

B. The answer: The profit in trusting on Jesus Christ

1. I am *now righteous before God*

2. I am now righteous *in Christ*

3. I am now an heir of eternal life

Closing Reflections on God's declaration of justification of the believers

A. Why is this benefit so hard to believe?

B. Are not God's people experiencing that they remain poor and needy?

C. To remain apart from Christ through unbelief means you will need to represent yourself before your holy and just God: *yet Jesus' arms are wide open to receive now*

*Come now, and let us reason together, **saith the LORD:**
though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;
though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. (Is. 1:8)*

Golden Thoughts on Justification

Christ's righteousness, pleaded in the court of justice,
is our full and final discharge.

Justification by faith in Jesus Christ by grace alone
is the hinge and pillar of Christianity. (T. Watson)

Nobody has understood Christianity
who does not understand the word 'justified'.

Any attempt to make justification dependent upon holiness in us is to rob grace
from its freeness and to add works to saving and sovereign grace. (D. Barnhouse)

In the court of justification our merits are nothing worth,
But in the court of sanctification they are jewels and ornaments. (R. Sibbes)