

The Joy of Forgiveness

Psalm 32:1-5

Introduction:

- A. David describes a “blessed” or happy man (vv. 1-2).
 - 1. Describes him in 3 ways: Sins forgiven, covered, not imputed.
 - 2. Quoted by Paul (Rom. 4:6-8)
 - 3. Misused by Calvinists’ doctrine of imputed righteousness.
- B. David uses his personal experiences to illustrate his point:

Discussion:

I. He Had Experienced the *Misery of Guilt* (vv. 3-4).

- A. One has to either ignorant or hardened or both to be comfortable with guilt.
 - 1. Possible for one to be ignorant and comfortable (1 Tim. 1:13; Acts 23:1)
 - 2. Possible for one to have a seared conscience (1 Tim. 4:2)
- B. One with knowledge and a tender conscience is miserable with guilt.
 - 1. Knows and cares that sin separates him from God. (Isa. 59:1-2).
 - 2. Knows and cares about the ultimate wages of sin (Rom. 6:23).
 - 3. Knows and cares about the effect his sin must have on God (cf. Eph. 4:30; Psa. 95:10-11)
 - a. The God who made him and has blessed.
 - b. The God who gave his son for him (cf. John 3:16).
 - c. The Lord who came and died for him.
 - 4. Knows and cares about the effect his sin must have others that love him.

II. He Had Experienced the *Joy of Forgiveness* (v. 5).

- A. Enjoyed forgiveness only *after* he acknowledged and confessed (silent vs acknowledge).
- B. Forgiveness from God is always conditional.
 - 1. One is not forgiven simply because he quits practicing a sin.
 - 2. One cannot be forgiving while continuing in sin (Rom. 6:1; Heb. 10:26-29).
 - 3. An alien sinner must repent and be baptized (Acts 2:36-38).
 - 4. An erring Christian must repent, confess and pray (Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:7-9).
 - 5. One must be willing to forgive others to be forgiven (Matt. 6:14-15).
- C. Forgiveness from others is also conditional (Luke 17:3-4).
 - 1. God forgives us — if (1 John 1:9).
 - 2. We must forgive others - if.

Conclusion:

- A. Others have experienced the joy of forgiveness (Acts 8:36; 16:24)
- B. Do you want to enjoy the blessedness of forgiveness?
- C. Then, meet the conditions of forgiveness today.