Happiness Through Forgiveness

Ponder: The blessedness of being forgiven

Scripture: “Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit” (Psalm 32:1, 2, NKJV).

True happiness (blessedness) hinges on a right relationship with God. King David wrote about this after his dreadful episode of adultery with Bathsheba and its aftermath. After a time, God’s faithful prophet Nathan cleverly rebuked David, who then repented and confessed his sin.

Before being confronted, David tried his best to hide his foul deeds. He summoned Bathsheba’s husband, Uriah the Hittite, home from the battle site as if to inquire how the campaign was going. What he really wanted was for this faithful warrior to have intimate relations with Bathsheba before returning to the battle; that way her pregnancy would appear to be innocent. The honorable Uriah, however, would not enjoy such pleasure while his comrades were risking their own lives. Thus the desperate David, with cruel irony, sent Uriah back to the conflict carrying his own death warrant! (See 2 Samuel chapter 11.)

David’s conscience tormented him relentlessly. “When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long” (Psalm 32:3). The word “groaning” is literally “roaring.” David’s agony was like that of a wounded lion. Despite his glaring faults, David was a man after God’s own heart; and no such man can be happy while estranged from God! Only when he repented and confessed, and God forgave him, could he have peace in his heart.

Paul quoted this psalm of David to demonstrate the great Biblical doctrine of justification by faith in Romans 4:6-8. “Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin” (v. 8). Impute is a bookkeeping term, meaning to write down on a person’s account. Like David, each of us has sinned against God; but because Jesus paid the price and His blood cleanses us as we obediently trust in Him, God doesn’t charge our sin against us. How foolish we are if we hide our sins as David did! “He who covers his sins will not prosper. But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy” (Proverbs 28:13).

Is unforgiven sin keeping you from being truly happy? There is no other way to be happy in Jesus but to trust and obey!