

## The Blessing of Forgiveness

We have many things in common. One commonality among us is that we have hurt someone's feelings, we have wronged someone and, most importantly, we have all sinned before God. In all these areas, if we are as we should be, we have sought forgiveness for the wrong done or the sin against God.

Another common tie we have is the feeling we have experienced in having been forgiven for these things. It is like a weight that has been lifted off our shoulders. It is almost beyond description to experience the joy of forgiveness. David is a classic example here. He suffered dire consequences as a result of his sin with Bathsheba. One of the greatest consequences he faced was the death of his son. A reading of Psalms 51 and 32 provide a great picture of just how precious forgiveness is. A reading of Psalm 51 followed by a reading of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Psalm shows one pouring their heart out in repentance and then being overjoyed with the blessing of forgiveness.

As we have all sinned, we can also all be forgiven. God has provided the means of bridging the gap between us and Him that was produced by our sin (Isa. 59:1-2). We can be truly happy in our reconciled state. Do you share that joy? Do you desire true happiness? May we search for it in the appropriate places, especially in seeking to be reconciled to God in forgiveness. We have been told many times that happiness is a choice. Will we choose today to be happy?

Sermon: The Blessing of Forgiveness (Psa. 32:1-5)

1. The Blessing of Having our Sins Forgiven (Acts 22:16; Eph. 5:25-26; Col. 1:13; Eph. 2:8-9; 1 Pet. 1:18-19; Mk. 8:36-37; 2 Cor. 5:17-19)
2. How is this Sin Forgiven? (1 Jno. 1:8-10; Heb. 4:13; 2 Pet. 3:9; Psa. 139:7-12; Jno. 8:24; Rom. 1:16; Acts 8:22; James 5:16; 1 Jno. 1:9)
3. How long does this forgiveness last? (Psa. 103:12; Heb. 8:12; Psa. 51:7; Titus 1:1-2).

P.M. – NT Survey: Acts (1)