The man is blest whose wickednesse

Thomas RAVENSROFT (1590-1633)

2. And blessed is he to whom the Lord
imputeth not his sin:
Which in his heart hath hid no guile,
nor fraud is found therein.

3. For whilst that I kept close my sin,
in silence and constraint:
My bones did wear and waste away
with daily moan and plaint.
4. For night and day thy hand on me
so grievous was and smart:
That all my blood and humors moist
to dryness did convert.

5. I did therefor confess my fault,
and all my sins discover:
Then thou O Lord didst me forgive,
and all my sins pass over.
6. The humble man shall pray therefor,
and seek thee in due time:
So that the floods of water great
shall have no power on him.

7.When trouble an adversity,
do compass me about:
Thou art my refuge and my joy,
and thou dost rid me out.
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8. Come hither, and I shall thee teach,
how thou shalt walk upright:
And will thee guide, as I myself
have learned by proof and sight.

9. Be not so (rude) and ignorant,
as is the Horse and Mule,
Whose mouth without a reign or bit
from harm thou canst not rule.
10. The wicked man shall manifold
sorrows and grief sustain:
But unto him that trusts in God,
his goodness shall remain.

11. Be merry therefor in the Lord,
ye just lift up your voice:
And ye of pure and perfect heart,
be glad and eke rejoice.

Critical notes:
This setting is similar to the one of Psalm 86;
text somewhat modernised.