**Following**

**“Calling the Imperfect”**

**Bill Balbach, Lead Pastor October 10, 2021**

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.” Romans 3:23-24 (New International)

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**Unhealthy guilt blurs the reality of grace.**

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” 2 Corinthians 5:21 (New International)

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**We have a tendency to allow our guilt to rule our hearts rather than allowing it to be God’s grace that rules in our hearts.**

“When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!”” Luke 5:8 (New International)

**When guilt blurs grace, then we develop excuses rather than realizing opportunities.**

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**God’s rewards are realized when we step toward obedience.**

“God “will repay each person according to what they have done.” To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.” Romans 2:6-8 (New International)

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**Because of our guilt, we sometimes try to gain confidence by putting others down.**

“To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”” Luke 18:9-14 (New International)

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**We are imperfect people with the opportunity to be made perfect through the work of Jesus.**

“Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.” Colossians 3:16 (New International)

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