

The Five Solas

Week 1

Sola Scriptura

Senior Teaching Pastor Jim Supp — Reston Bible Church — September 13, 2026



The Five Solas

SOLA SCRIPTURA • SOLA FIDE • SOLA GRATIA • SOLUS CHRISTUS • SOLI DEO GLORIA

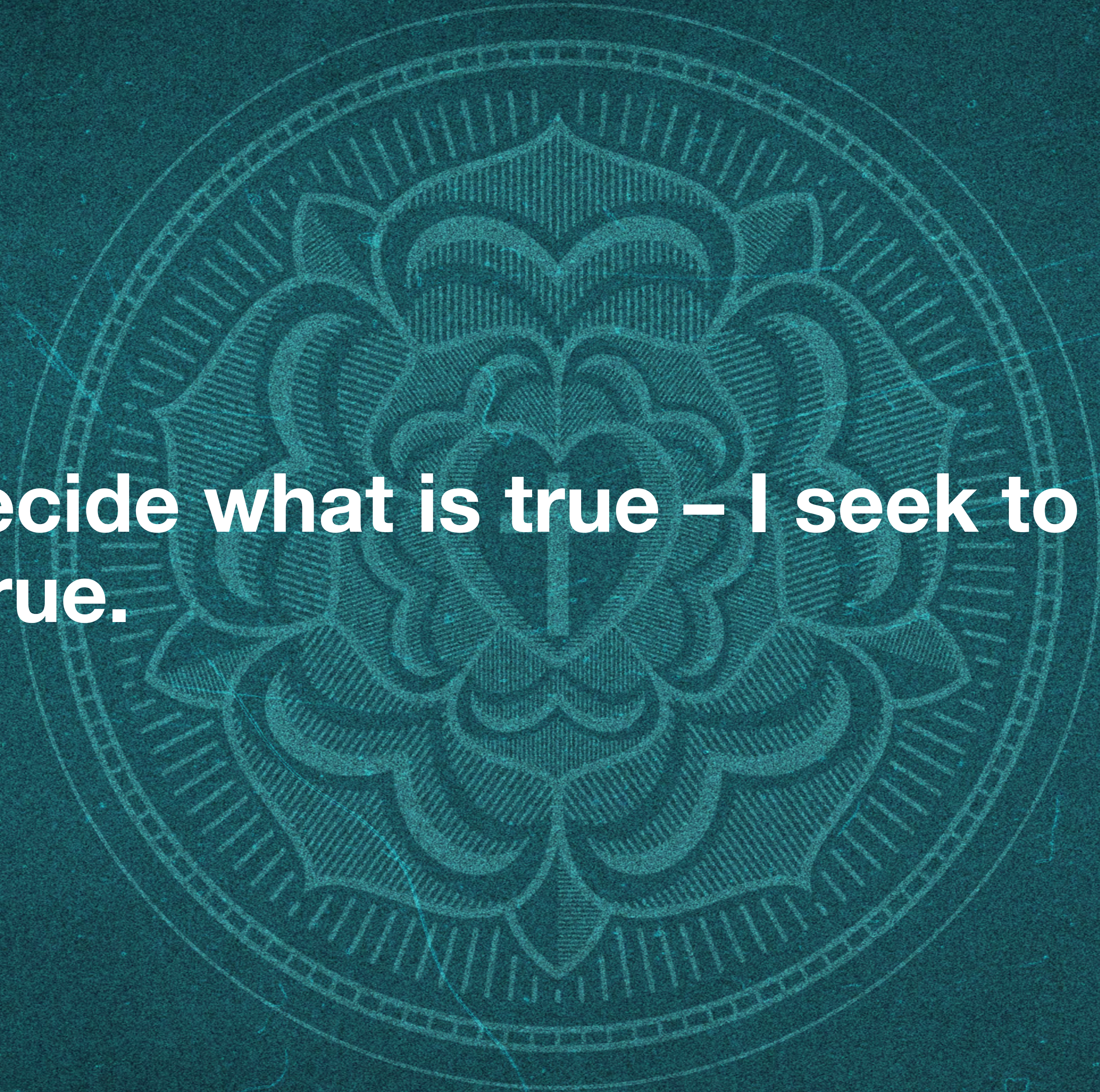


Changes Regarding Church



Changes Regarding Truth

**I don't decide what is true – I seek to discern
what is true.**



5 Solas

Authority: Scripture as Our Final Authority

Salvation:

- **By Grace Alone**
- **Through Faith Alone**
- **In Jesus Christ Alone**
- **For the Glory of God Alone**

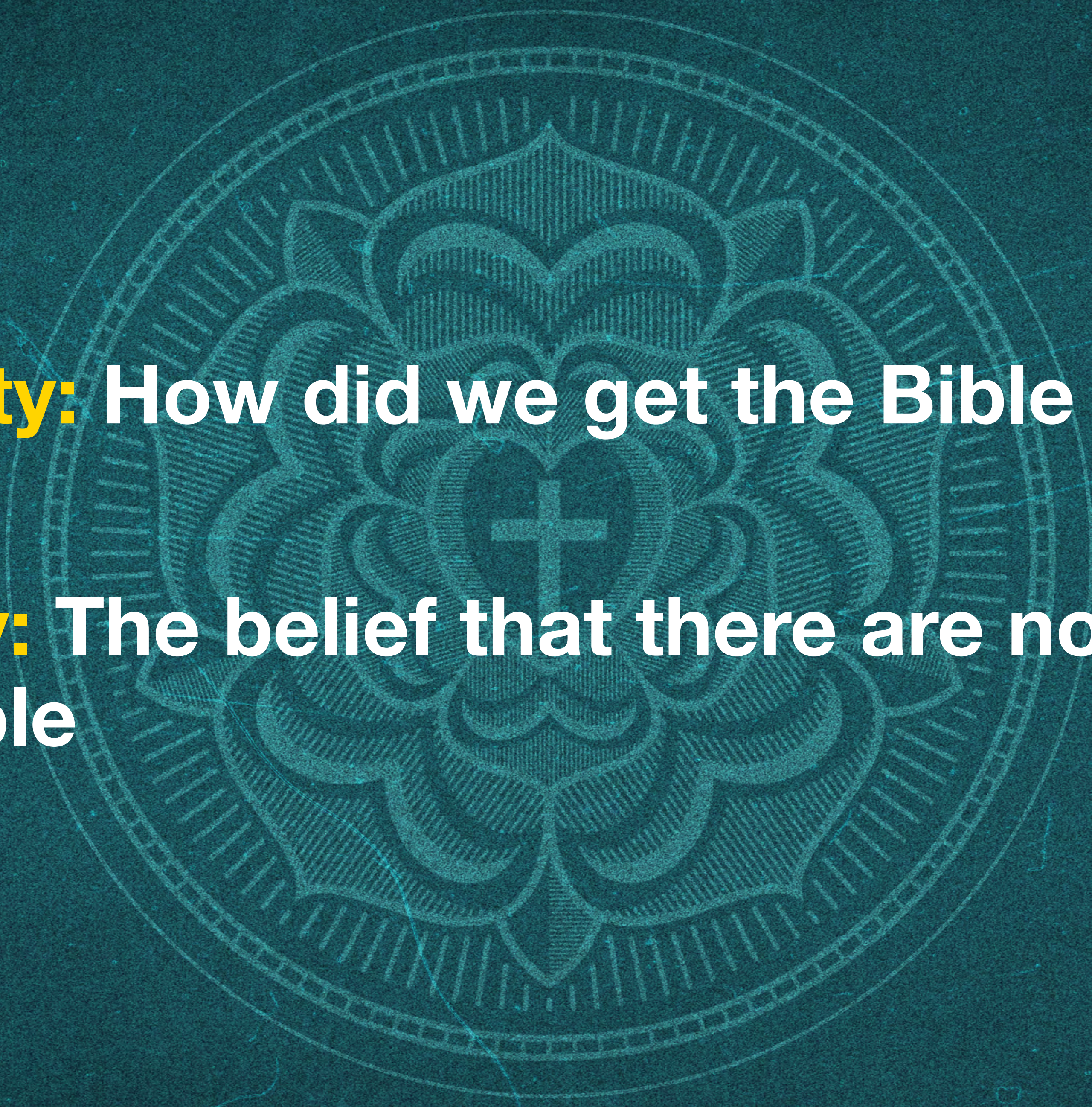


Roman Catholic/Orthodox split 1054: The Great Schism

**Roman Catholic/Protestant separation 1500s:
Protestant Reformation**

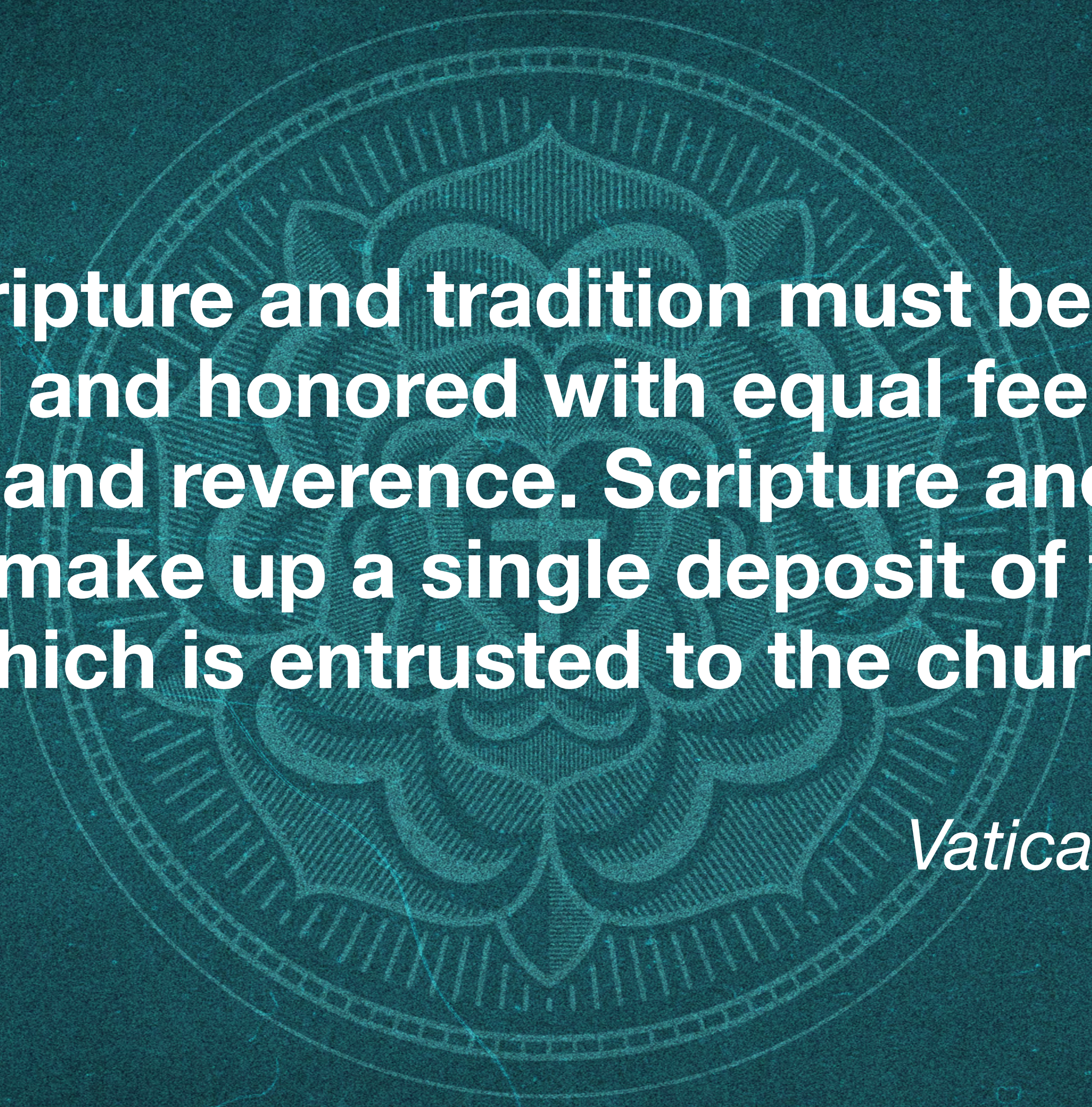


Authority: Scripture As Our Only Infallible Authority



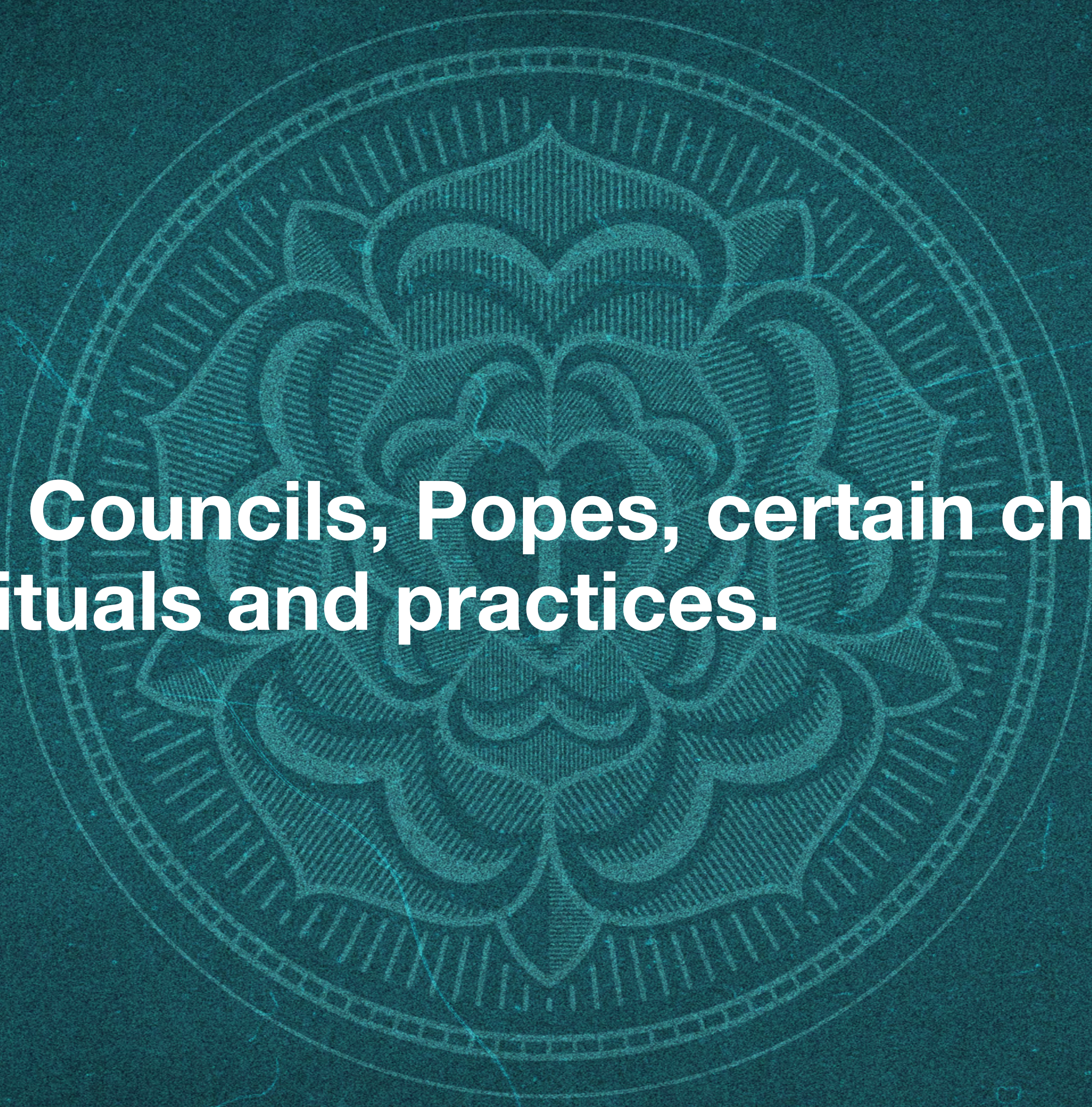
Canonicity: How did we get the Bible that we have?

Inerrancy: The belief that there are no errors in the Bible

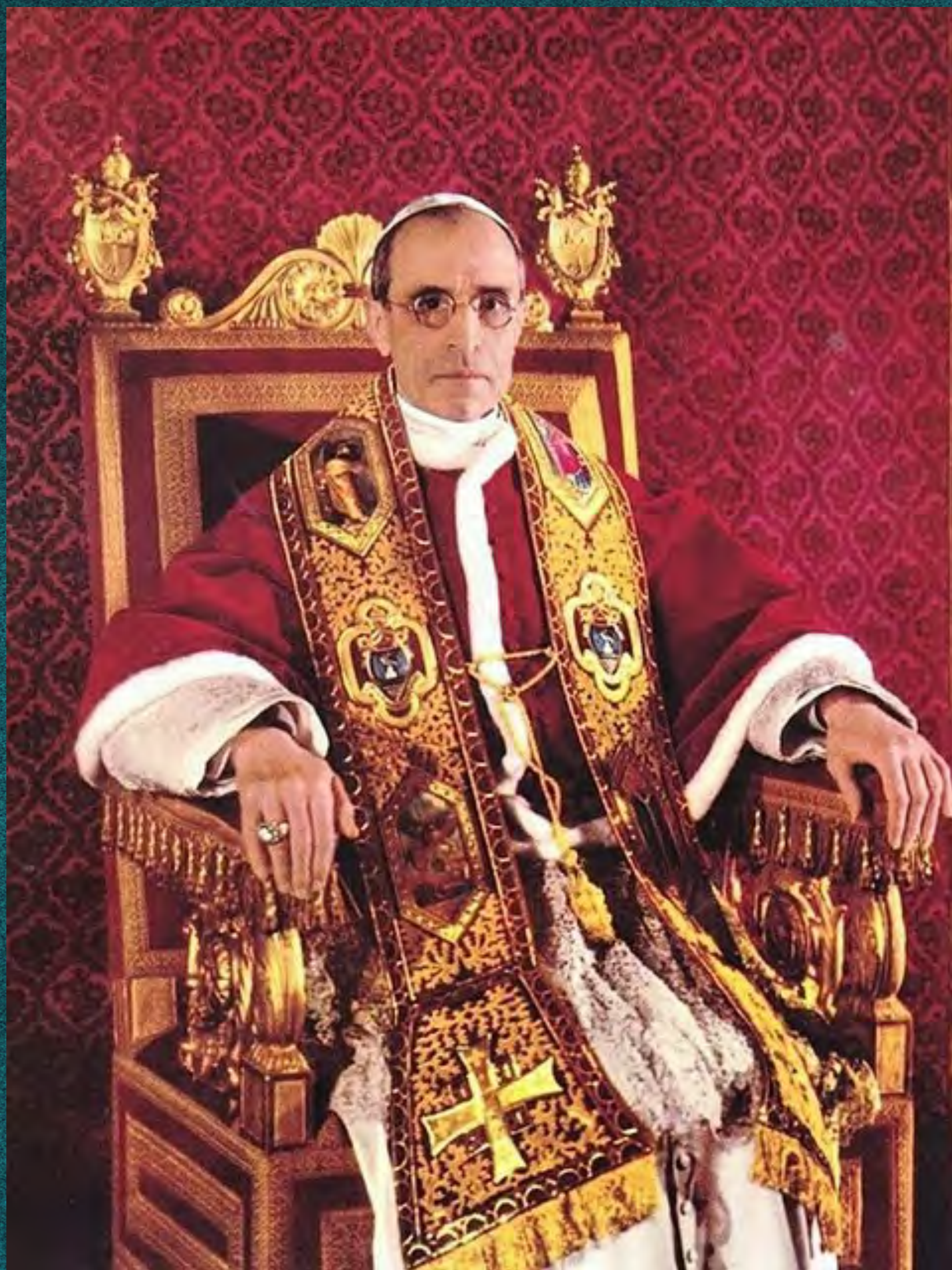


“Both scripture and tradition must be accepted and honored with equal feelings of devotion and reverence. Scripture and tradition make up a single deposit of the Word of God which is entrusted to the church.”

Vatican II, pg 755

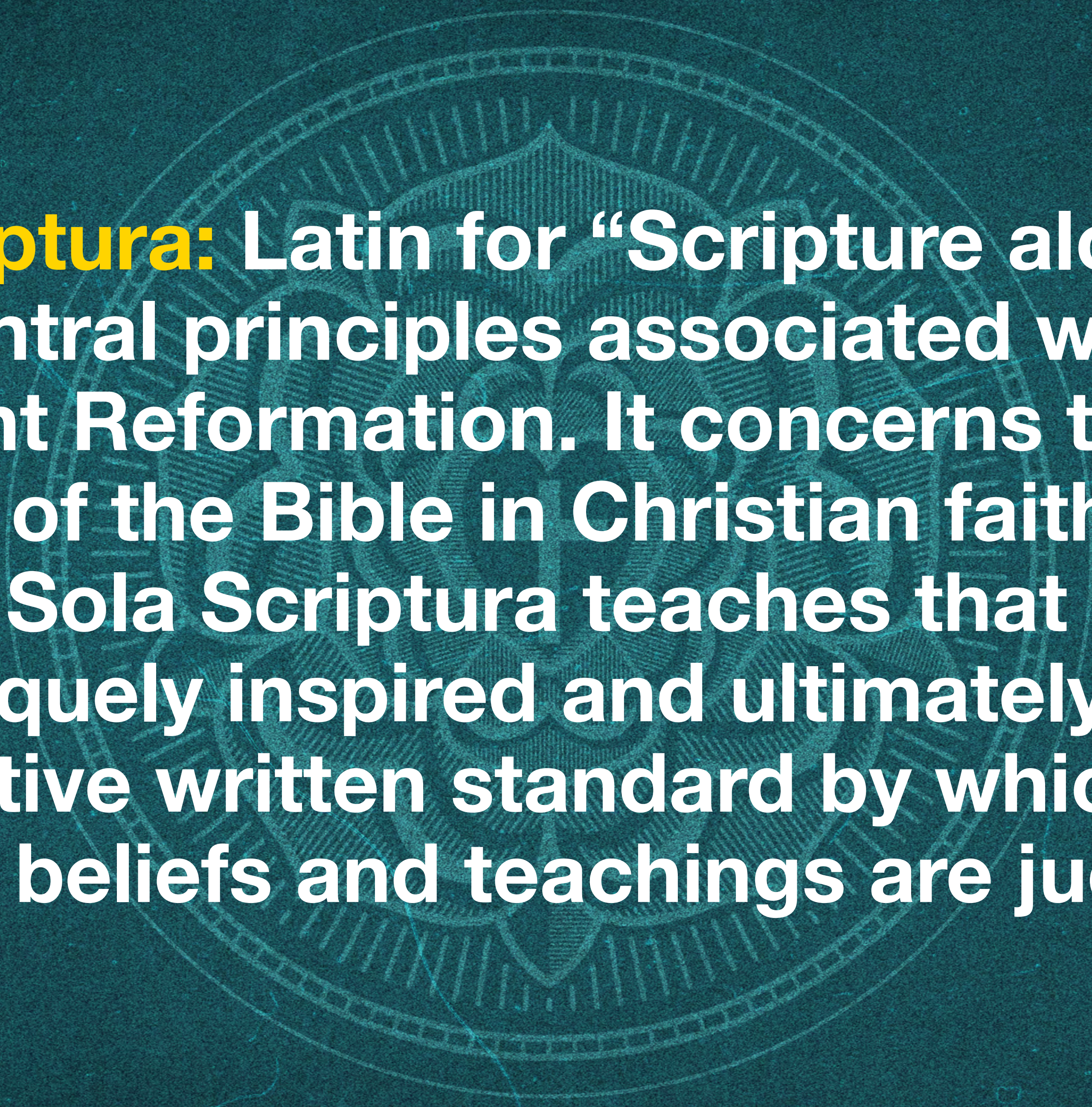


Tradition: Councils, Popes, certain church fathers, rituals and practices.

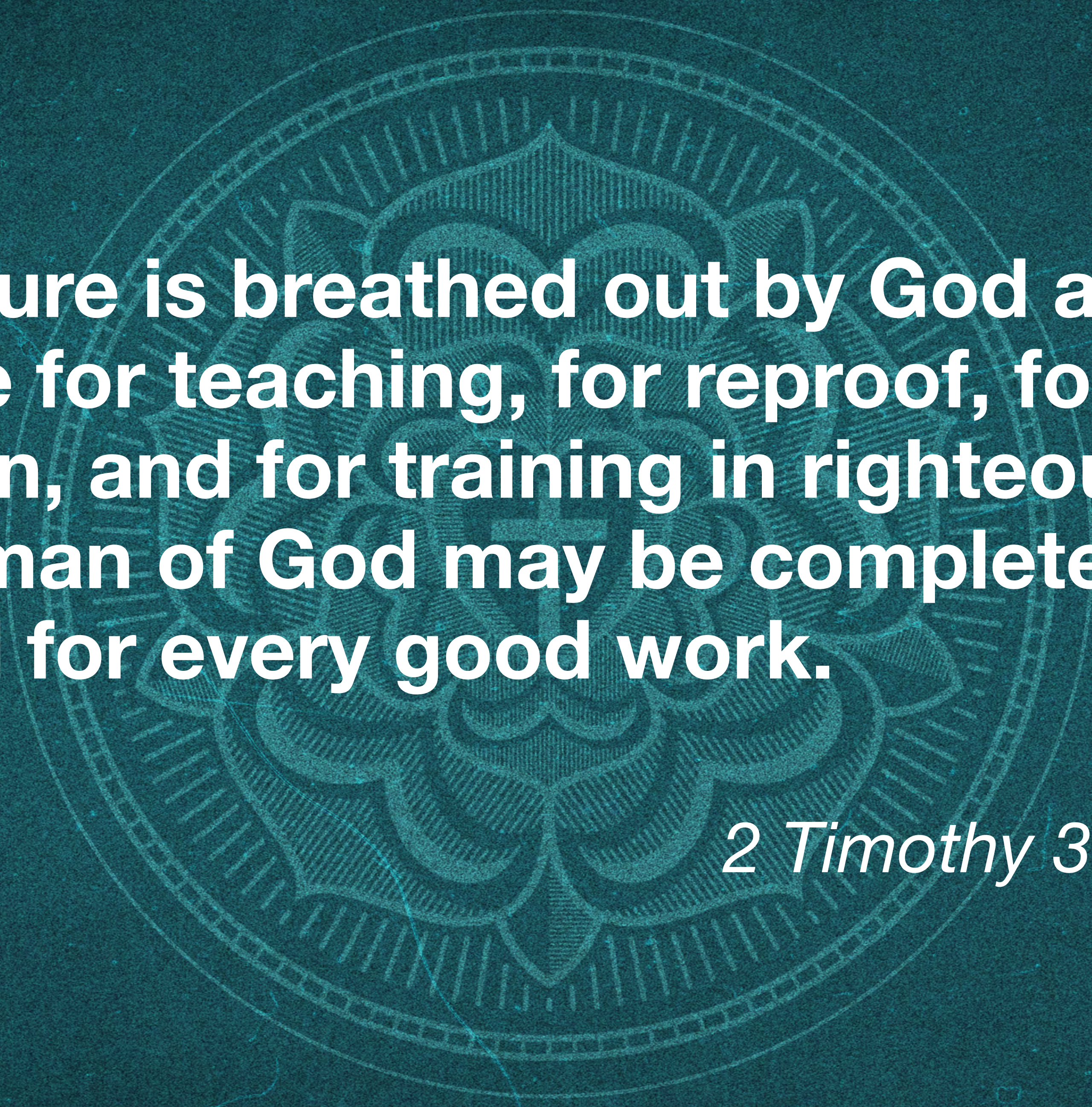


“Mary was assumed bodily into heaven as divinely revealed dogma, obligating Catholics to believe and are considered to have ‘fallen away from the Divine and Catholic faith’ if you do not.”

Pope Pius XII, Munificentissimus Deus



Sola Scriptura: Latin for “Scripture alone”, one of the central principles associated with the Protestant Reformation. It concerns the authority of the Bible in Christian faith and practice. Sola Scriptura teaches that Scripture is the uniquely inspired and ultimately authoritative written standard by which Christian beliefs and teachings are judged.



**All Scripture is breathed out by God and
profitable for teaching, for reproof, for
correction, and for training in righteousness,
that the man of God may be complete,
equipped for every good work.**

2 Timothy 3:16-17 ESV

God Communicates To People

Long ago, at many times and in many ways,
God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but
in these last days he has spoken to us by his
Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things,
through whom also he created the world.

Hebrews 1:1-2 ESV

The Bible Teaches That There Is “Scripture”

Scripture – graphe – the entirety of sacred writings at this point in redemptive history.

The Bible Teaches That There Is “Scripture”

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 ESV

The Bible Teaches That There Is “Scripture”

Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.

Jude 3 ESV

God Determines What Is Scripture And What It Means

...knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 1:20-21 ESV

God Determines What Is Scripture And What It Means

Hermeneutics: The study of biblical interpretation

Apostles Acknowledged The Developing New Testament Scripture

Or was it from you that the word of God came? Or are you the only ones it has reached? If anyone thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 14:36-37 ESV

Apostles Acknowledged The Developing New Testament Scripture

**And count the patience of our Lord as
salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul
also wrote to you according to the wisdom
given him, as he does in all his letters when he
speaks in them of these matters.**

Apostles Acknowledged The Developing New Testament Scripture

There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.

2 Peter 3:15-16 ESV

Apostles Acknowledged The Developing New Testament Scripture

So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter.

2 Thessalonians 2:15 ESV

Church Fathers Acknowledged The New Testament Scriptures

“I do not, as Peter and Paul, issue commandments unto you. They were apostles; I am but a condemned man: They were free, while I am, even until now, a servant.”

*Ignatius of Antioch, 35-108 A.D.
(Ignatius, Epistle to the Romans, 4)*

Church Fathers Acknowledged The New Testament Scriptures

“It is necessary for us to cite the testimony of the holy scriptures. For our opinions and discourses have no credit, unless confirmed by their witness.”

Origen, 184-235 A.D.

Church Fathers Acknowledged The New Testament Scriptures

“Because at this time, since heresy hath prevailed in those churches, there can be no other proof of true Christianity, no other refuge for true Christians, who desire to know the truth of faith, save the scriptures of God...

Church Fathers Acknowledged The New Testament Scriptures

now those who wish to know what is the true church of Christ, have no other means of knowing but the holy scriptures.”

Augustine, 354-430 A.D.

Nothing Should Be Added To God's Word

“This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.”

Nothing Should Be Added To God's Word

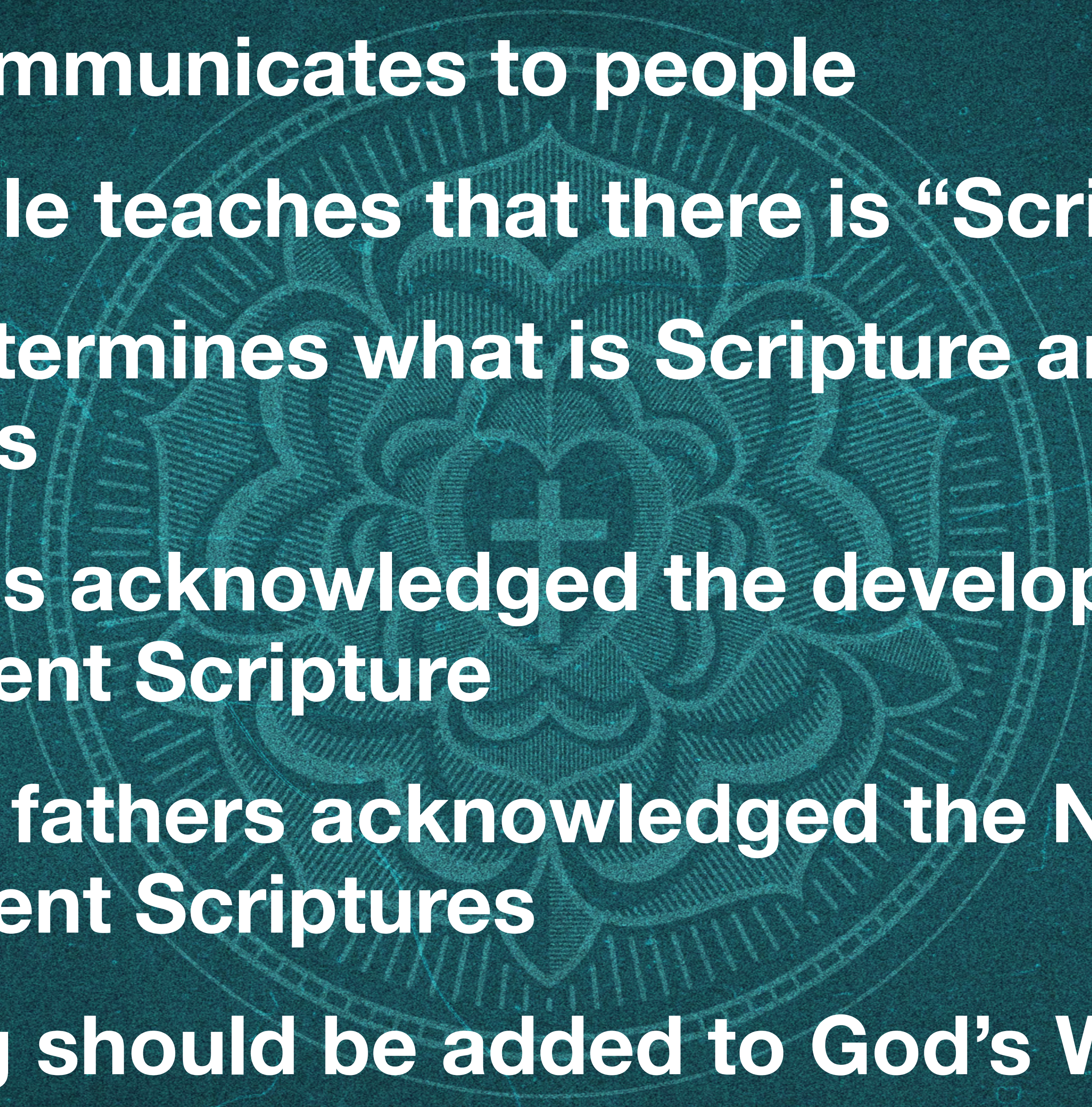
And he said to them, “You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition!”

Mark 7:6-9 ESV

Nothing Should Be Added To God's Word

He answered them, “And why do you break
the commandment of God for the sake of your
tradition?”

Matthew 15:3 ESV

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- God communicates to people
 - The Bible teaches that there is “Scripture”
 - God determines what is Scripture and what it means
 - Apostles acknowledged the developing New Testament Scripture
 - Church fathers acknowledged the New Testament Scriptures
 - Nothing should be added to God’s Word

Embrace God's Word As Your Infallible Source Of Truth

Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

Acts 17:11 ESV



William Tyndale

Learn To Study God's Word

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15 ESV

Do What God Says In His Word

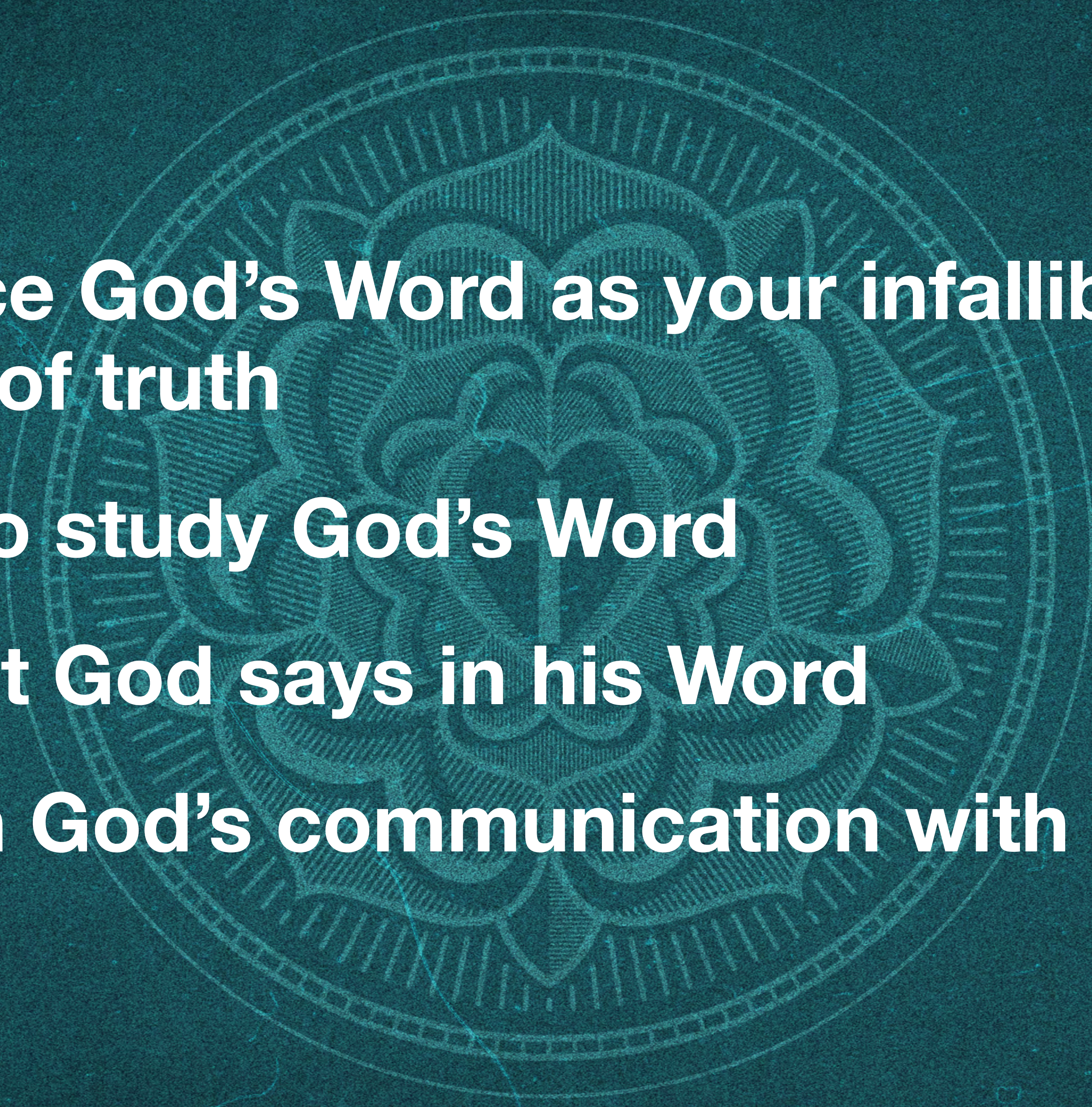
“Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?”

Luke 6:46 ESV

Discern God's Communication With You

**My sheep hear my voice, and I know them,
and they follow me.**

John 10:27 ESV

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- **Embrace God's Word as your infallible source of truth**
 - **Learn to study God's Word**
 - **Do what God says in his Word**
 - **Discern God's communication with you**