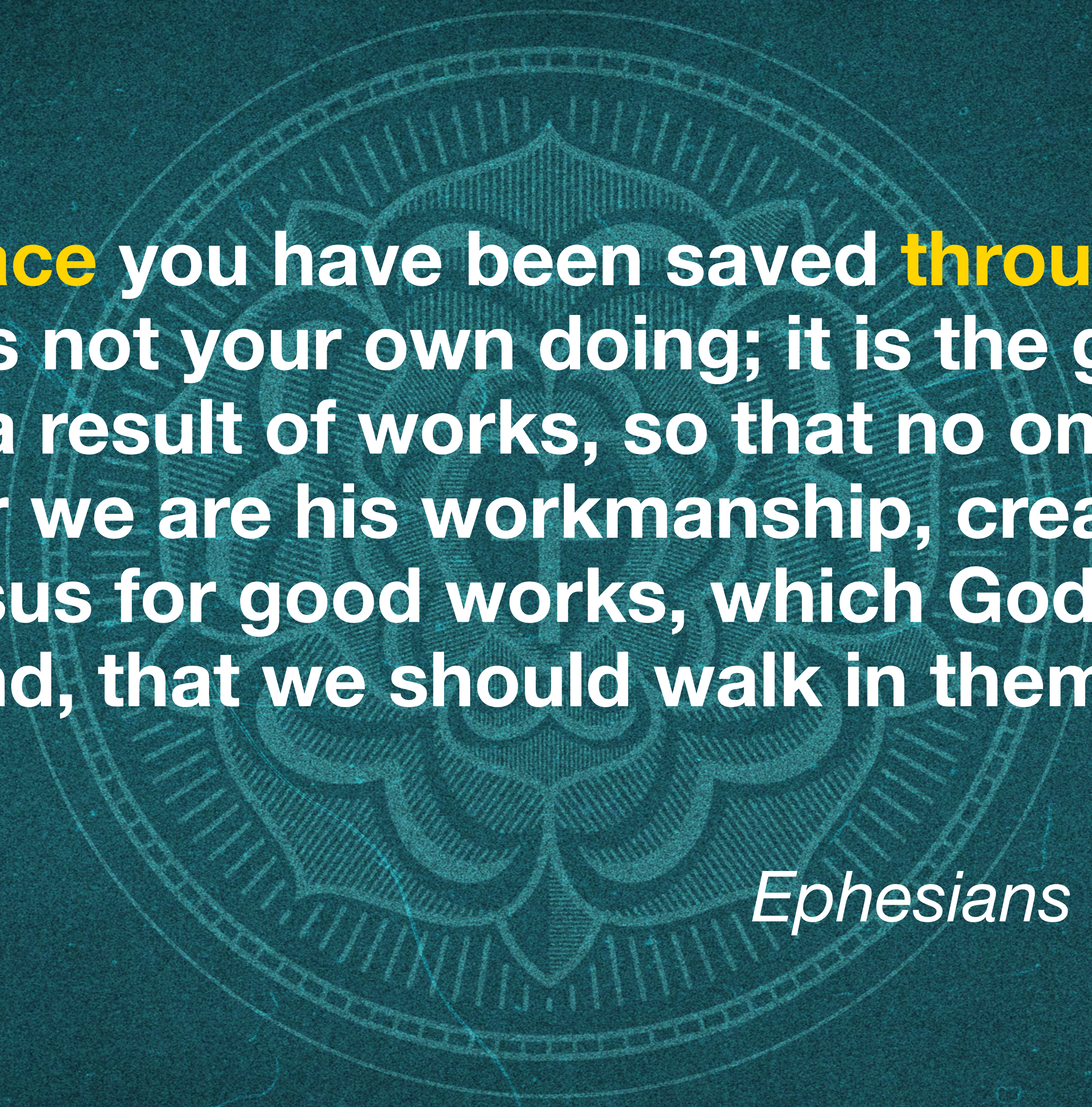


# The Five Solas

Week 2

## Sola Gratia

*Senior Teaching Pastor Jim Supp — Reston Bible Church — Sunday, September 20, 2026*

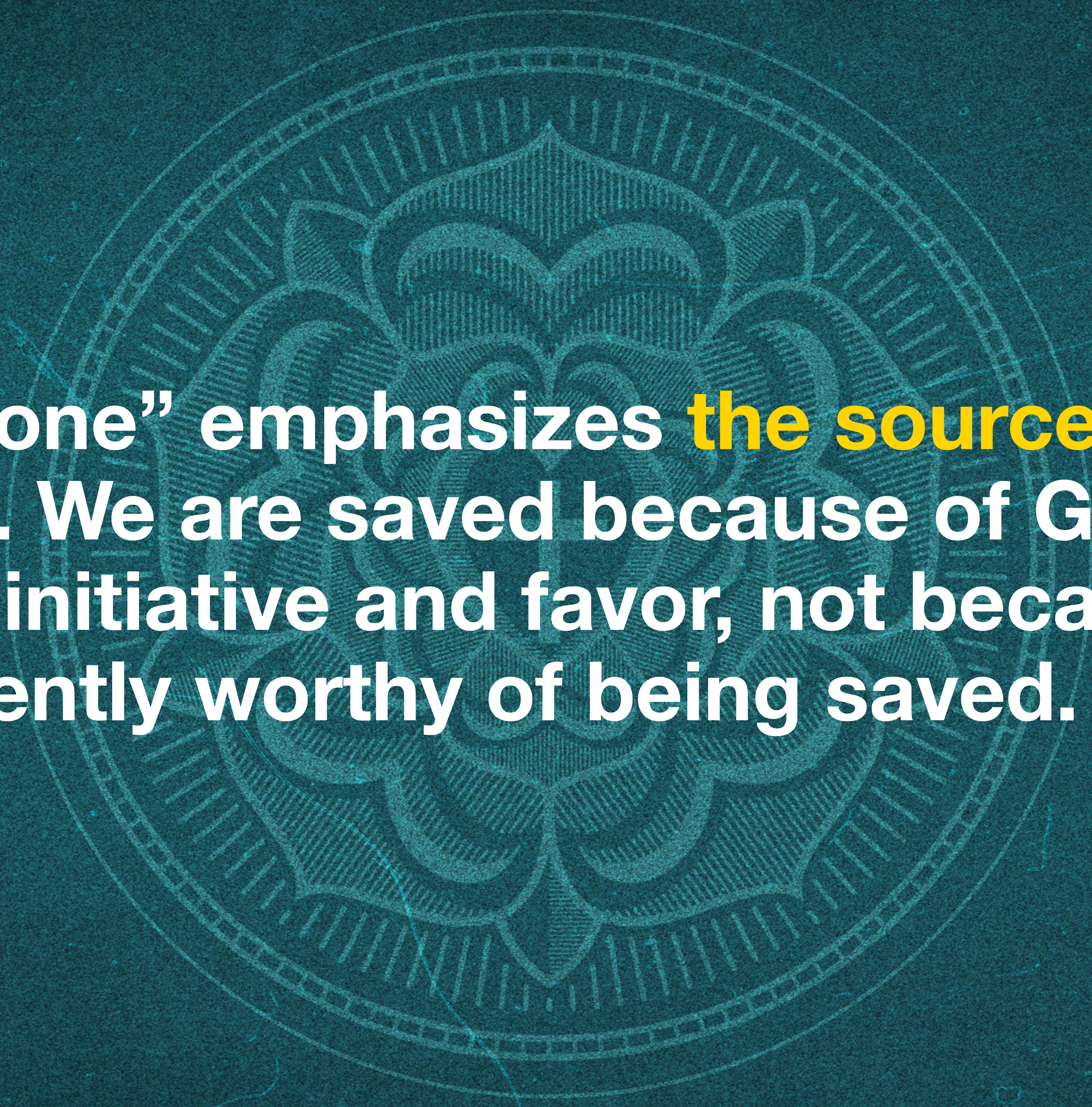


For **by grace** you have been saved **through faith**.  
And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of  
God, not a result of works, so that no one may  
boast. For we are his workmanship, created in  
Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared  
beforehand, that we should walk in them.

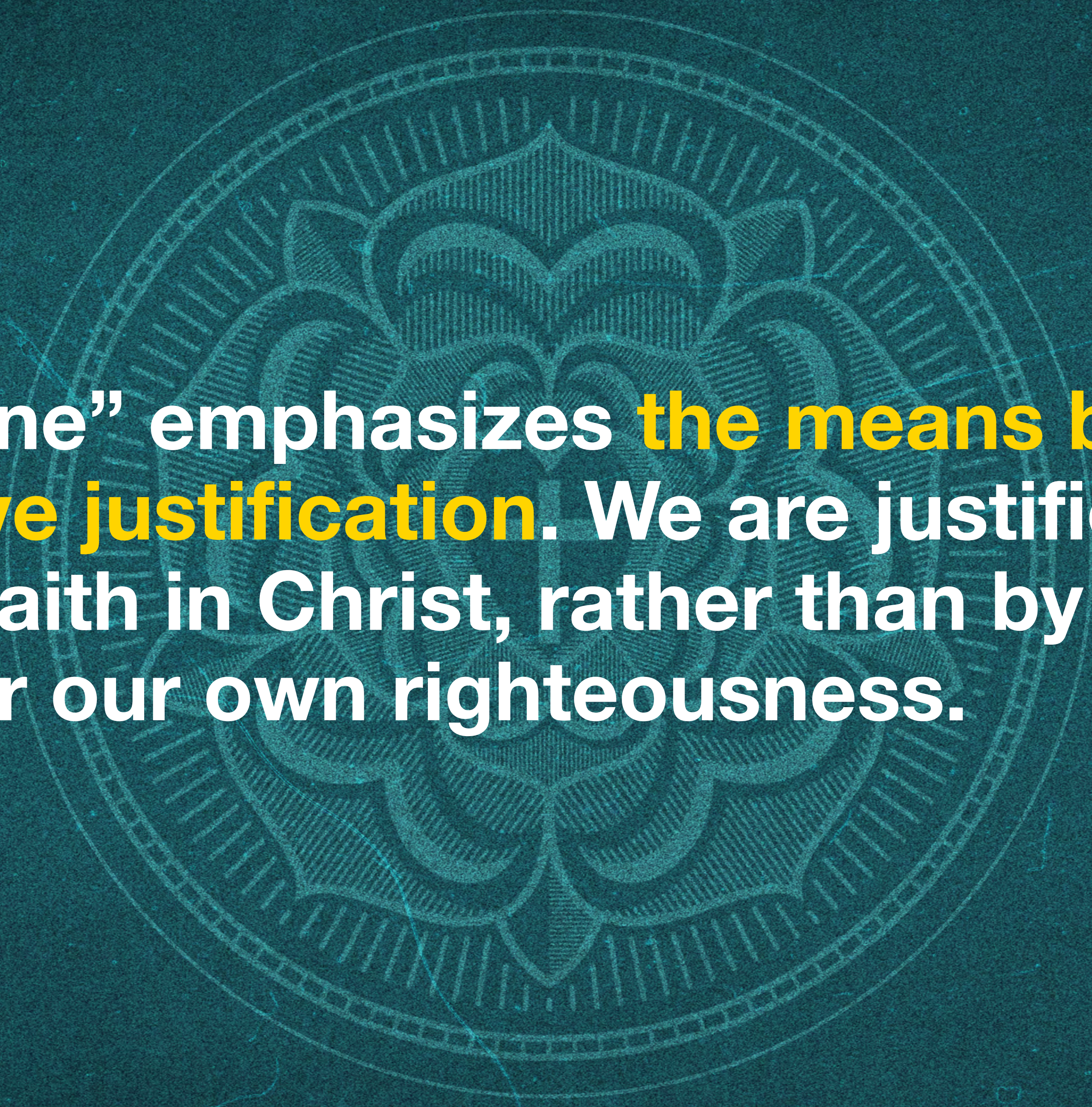
*Ephesians 2:8-10 ESV*



**For by – because of**



**“grace alone” emphasizes the source of salvation. We are saved because of God’s gracious initiative and favor, not because we are inherently worthy of being saved.**



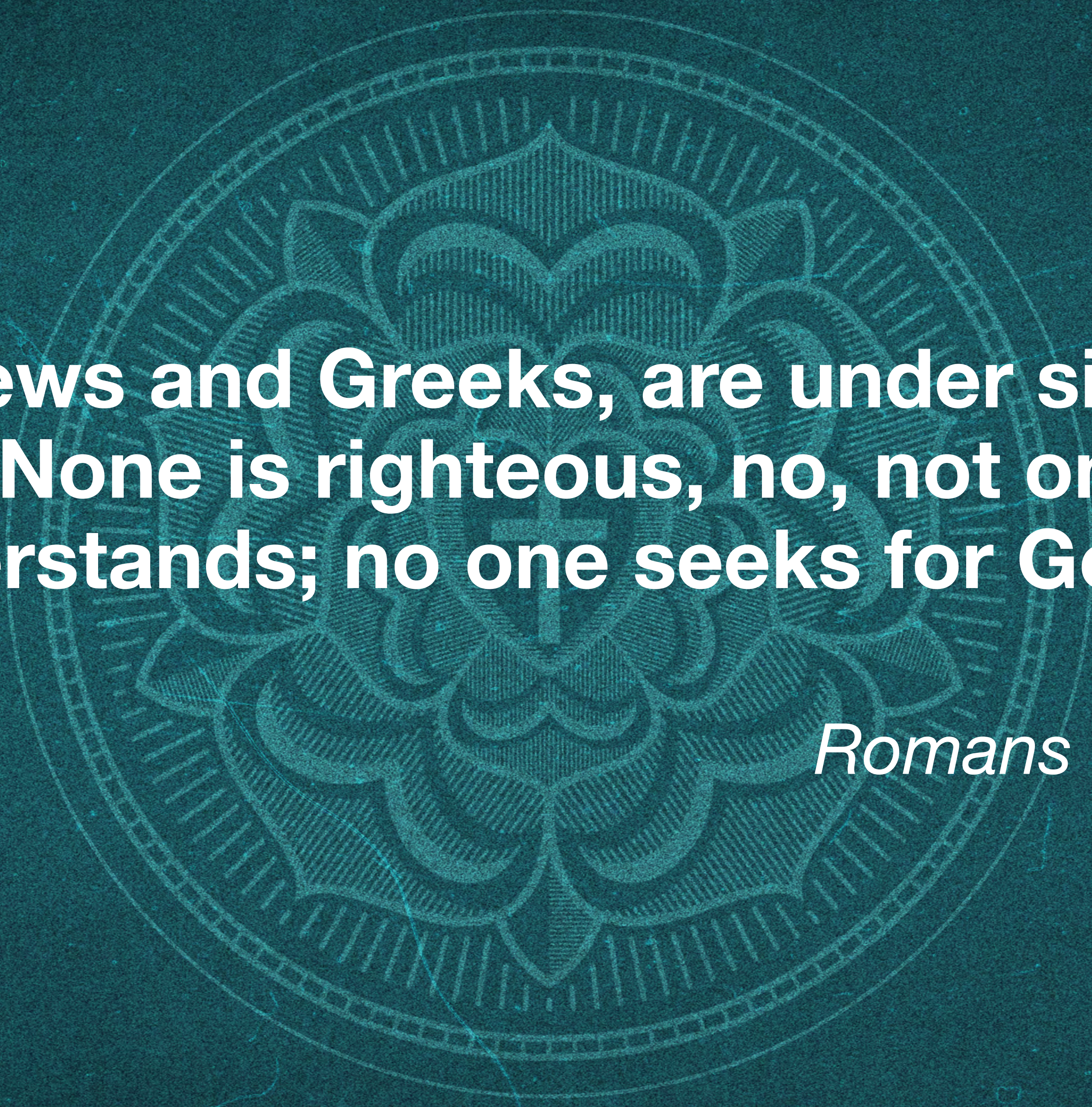
**“faith alone” emphasizes the means by which we receive justification. We are justified through faith in Christ, rather than by works of the law or our own righteousness.**

**dia – through, on account of...**

# 1. We Are Sinners Before We Sin

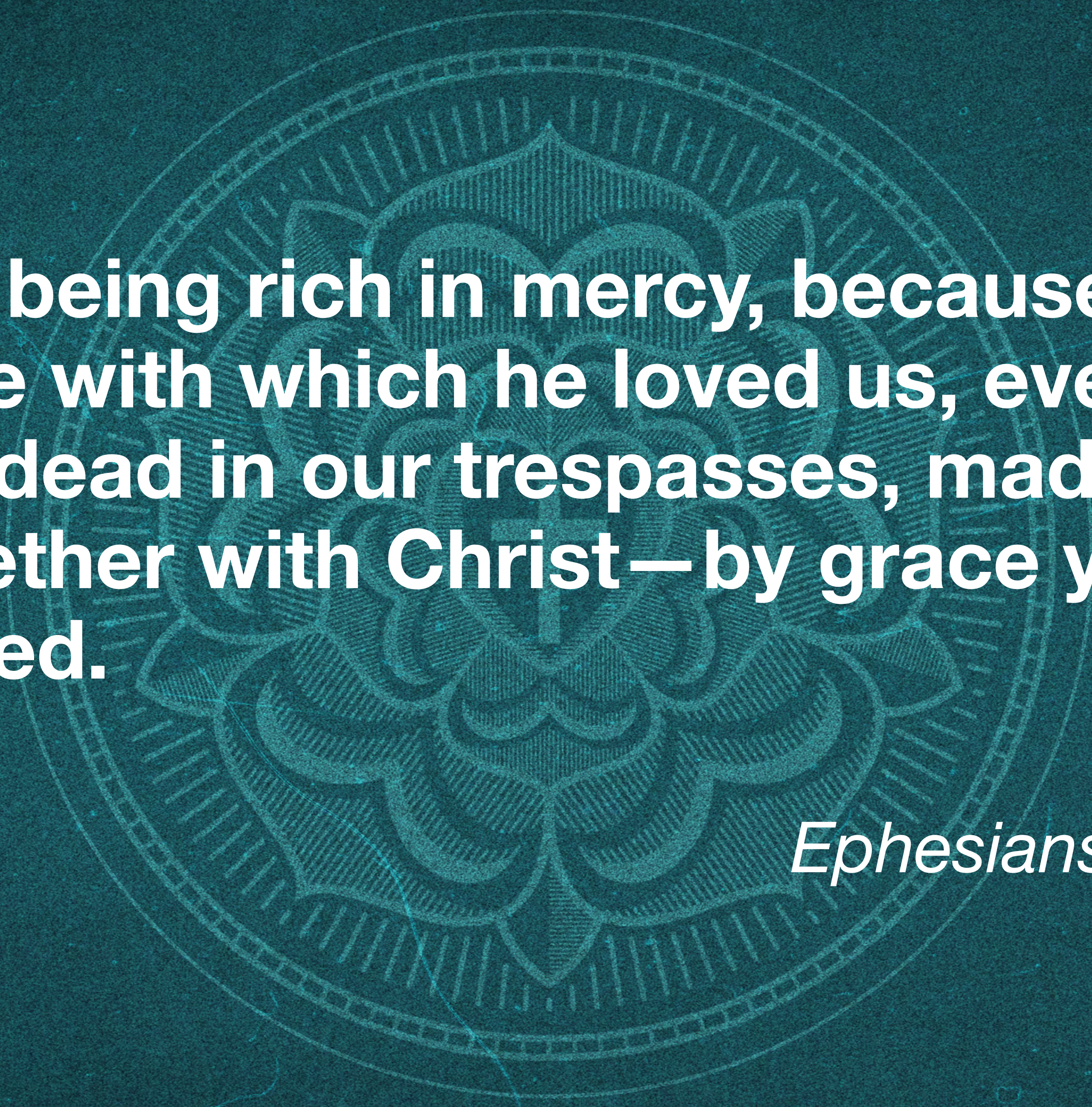
...just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.

*Romans 5:12 ESV*



**...both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God.”**

*Romans 3:9-11 ESV*



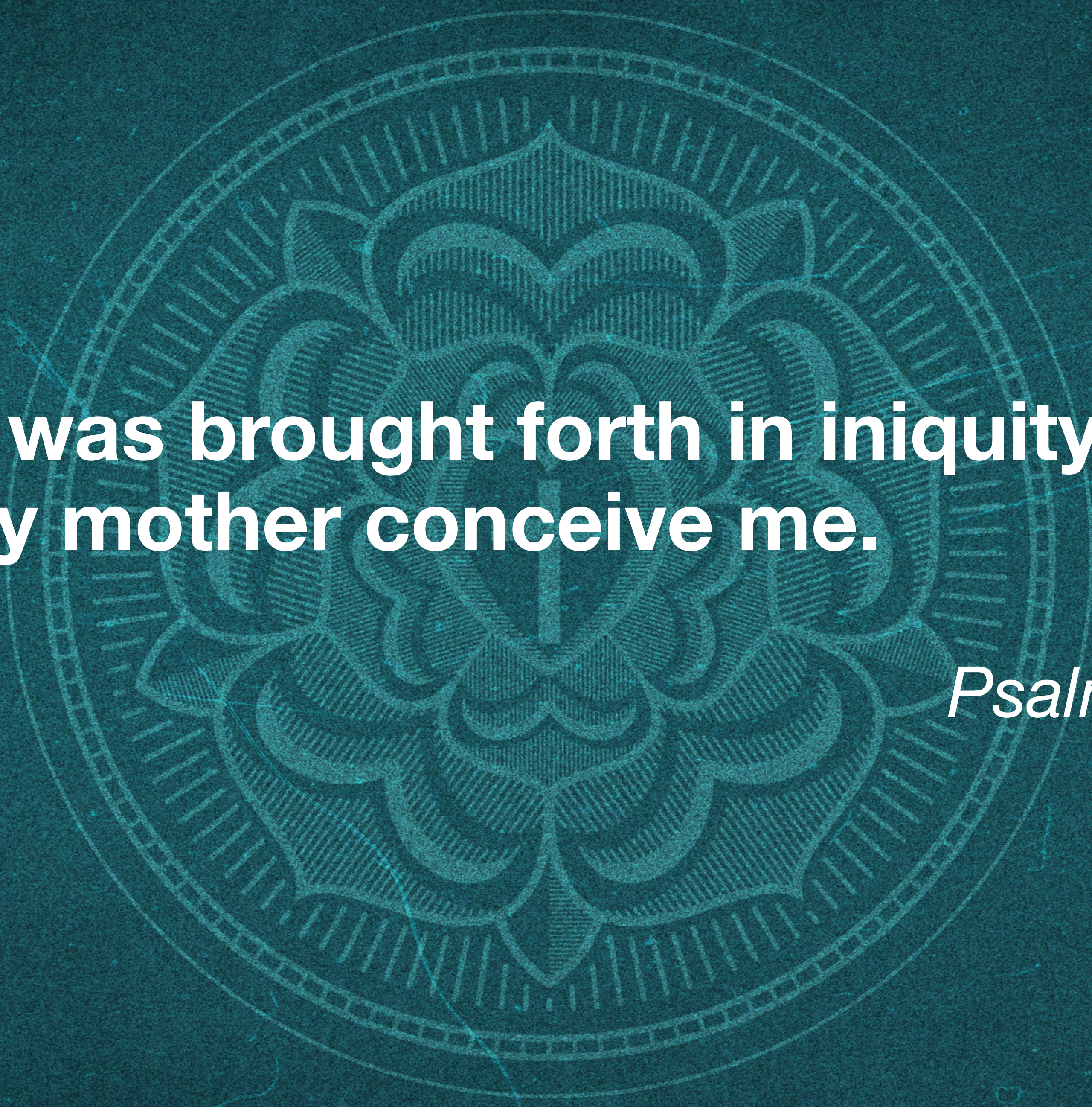
**But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved.**

*Ephesians 2:4-5 ESV*

## 2. We Are Not Essentially Good

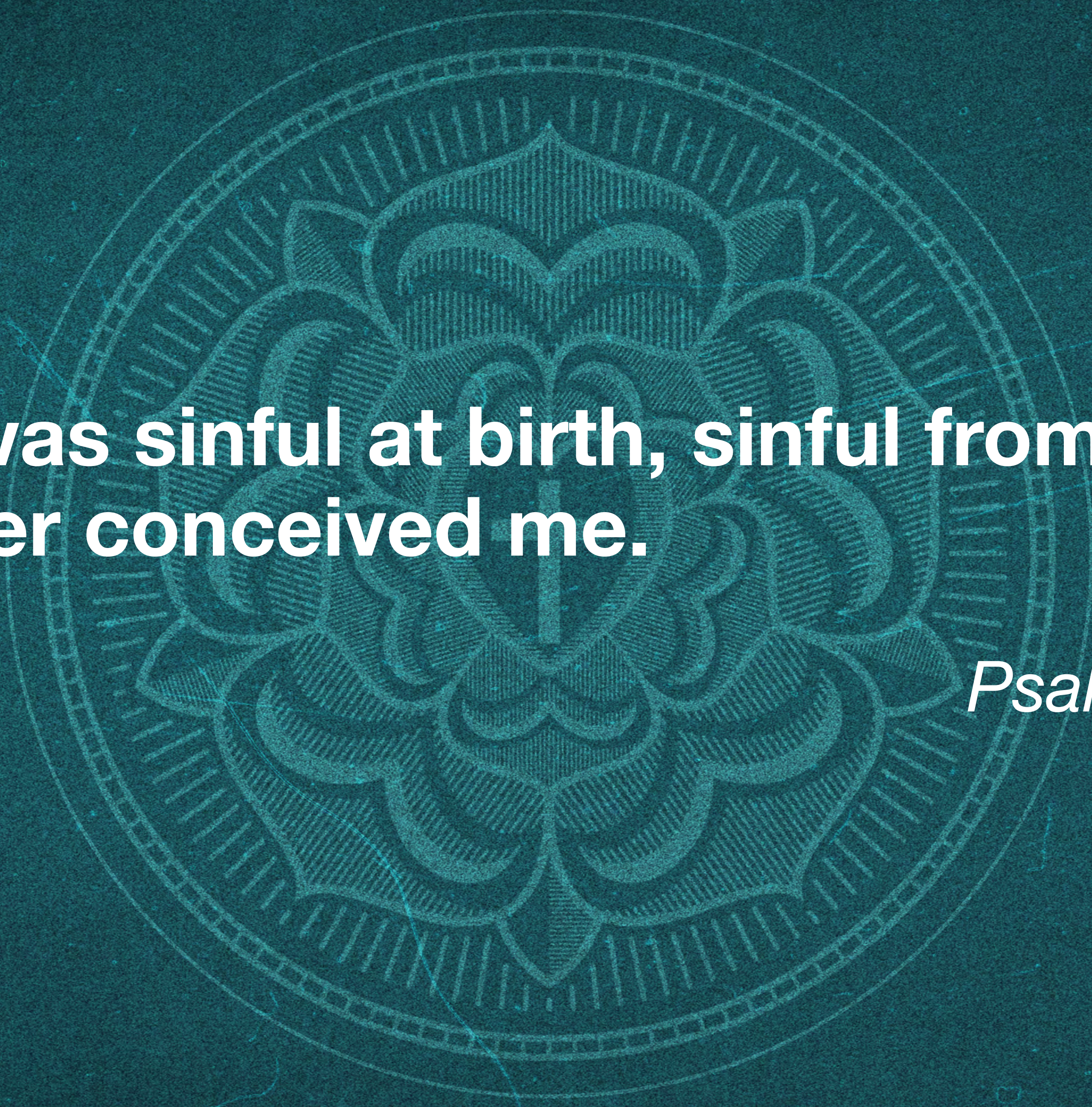
The Lord looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.

*Psalms 14:2-3 ESV*



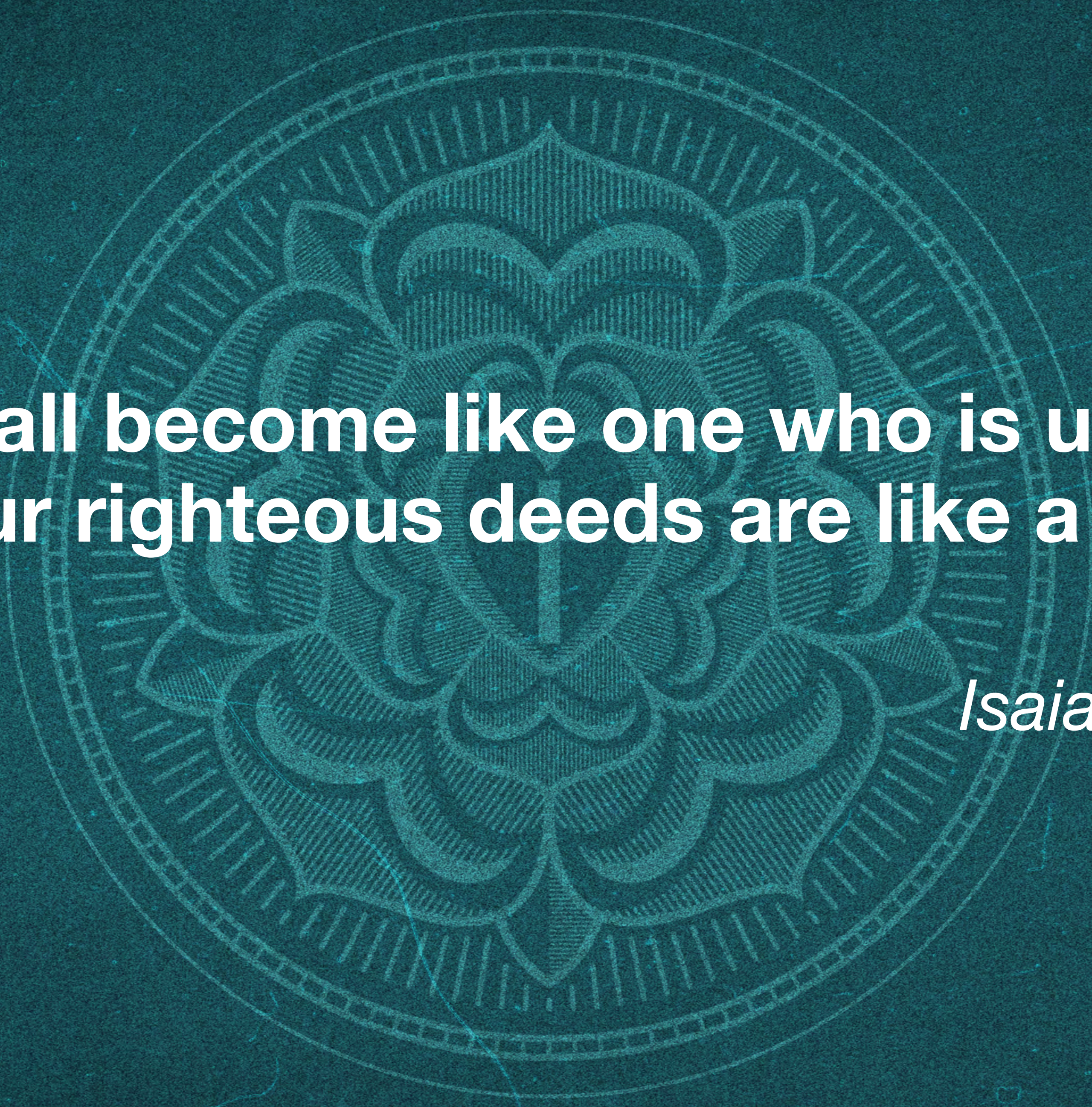
**Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in  
sin did my mother conceive me.**

*Psalms 51:5 ESV*



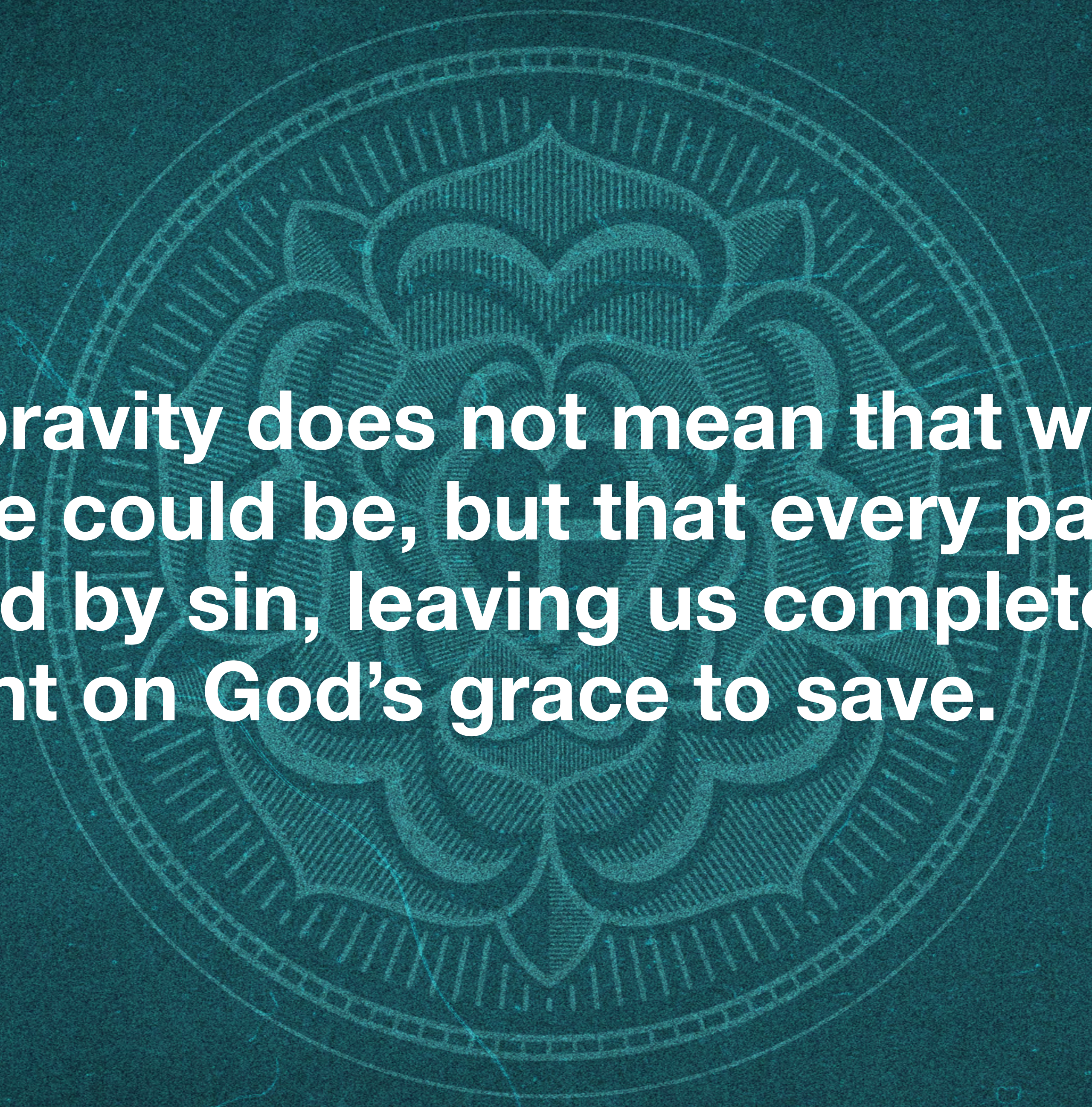
**Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time  
my mother conceived me.**

*Psalm 51:5 NIV*

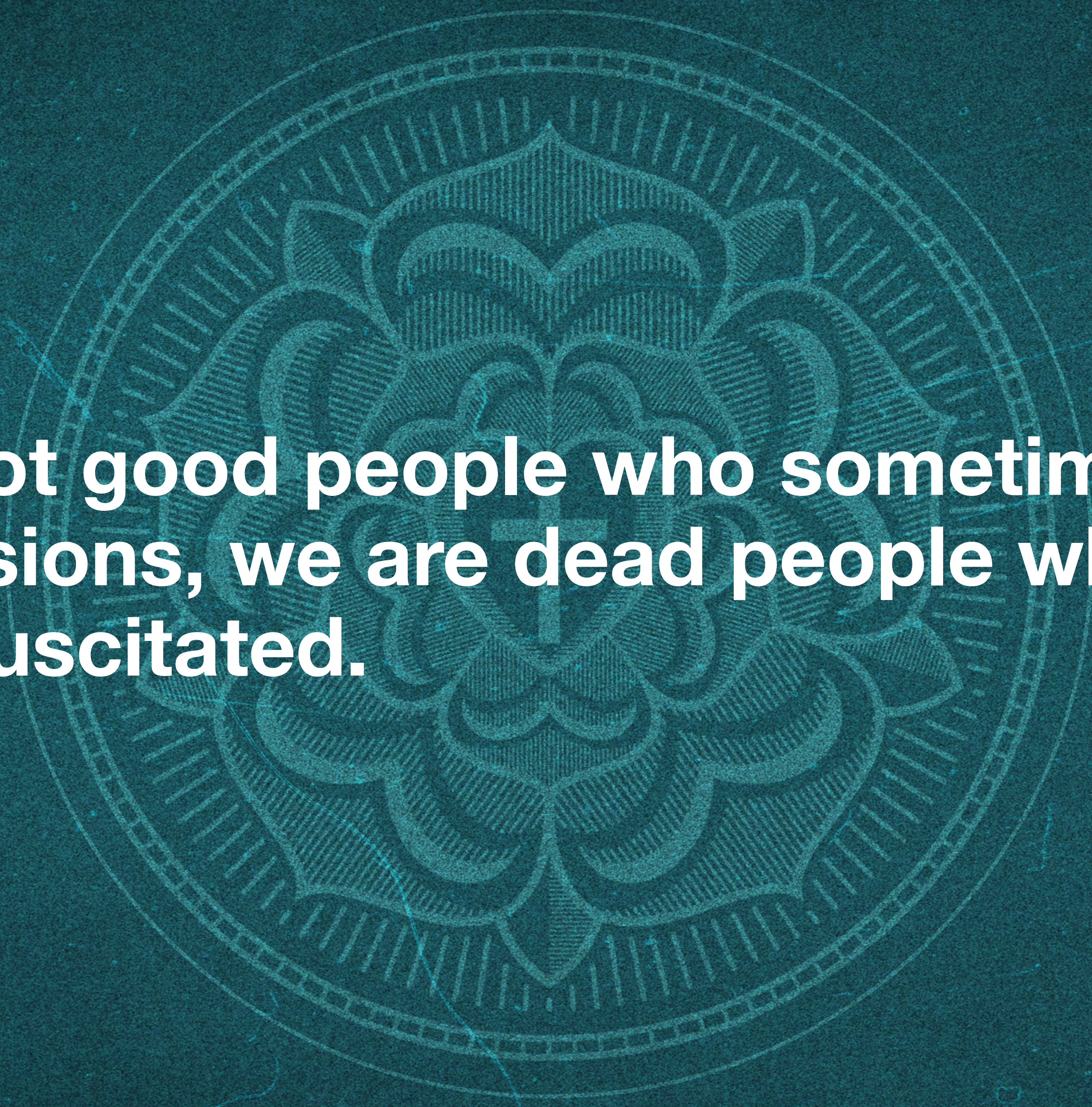


**We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted  
garment.**

*Isaiah 64:6 ESV*



**Total Depravity does not mean that we are as bad as we could be, but that every part of us is affected by sin, leaving us completely dependent on God's grace to save.**

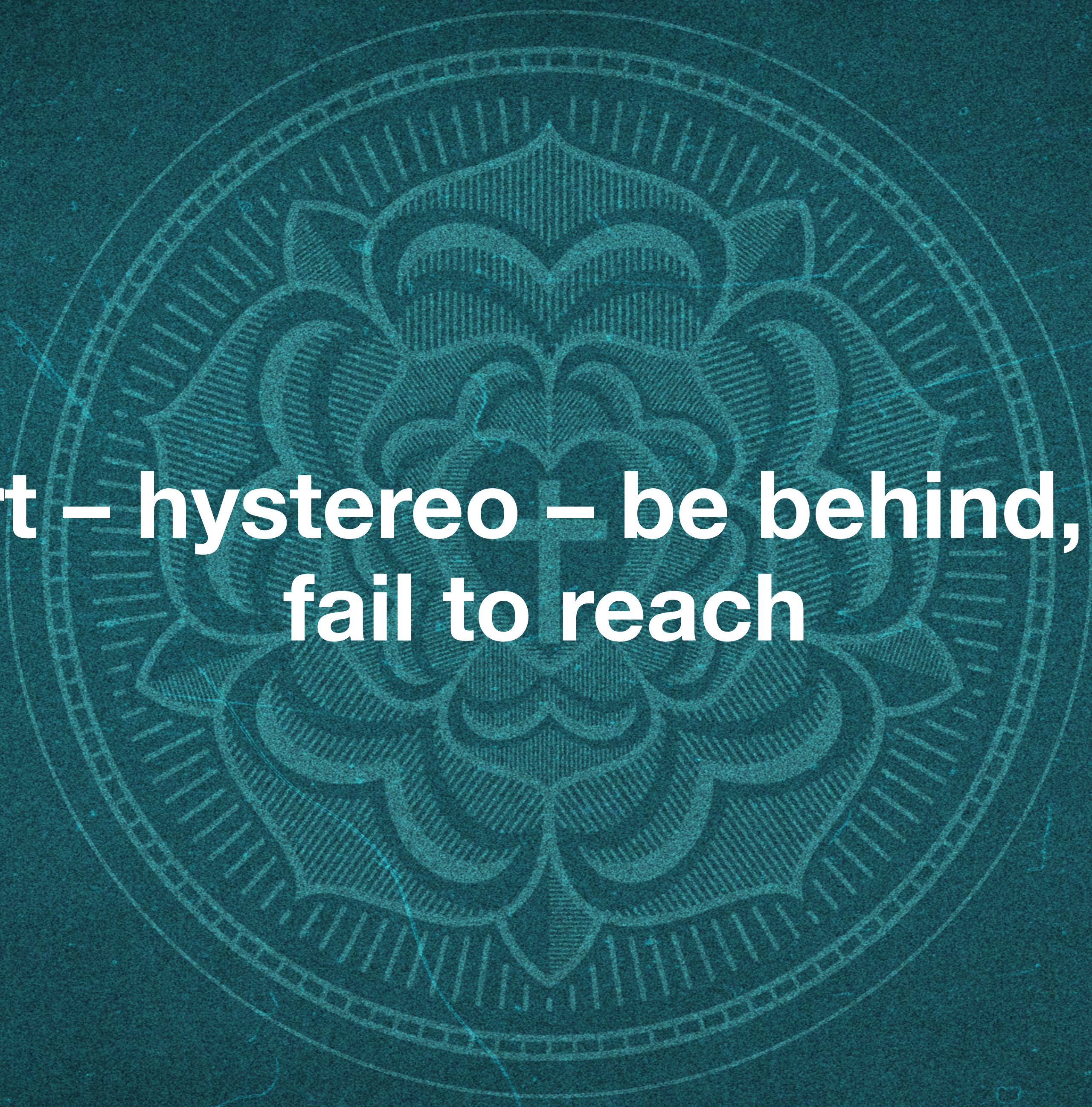


**We are not good people who sometimes make bad decisions, we are dead people who need to be resuscitated.**

### 3. We Exist Under The Condemnation Of God

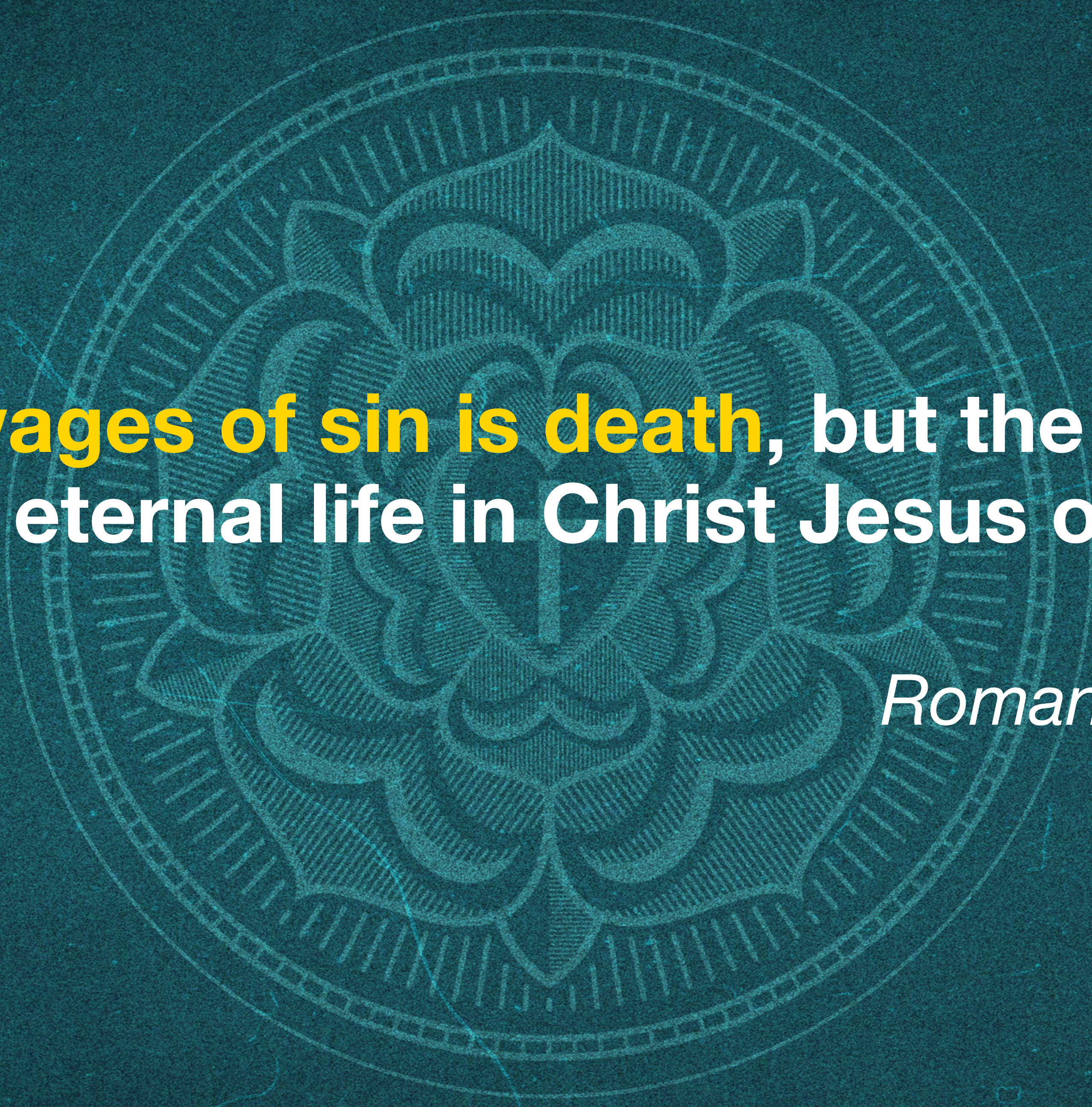
For all have sinned and **fall short** of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.

*Romans 3:23-25 ESV*



**fall short – hystereo – be behind, inferior,  
fail to reach**





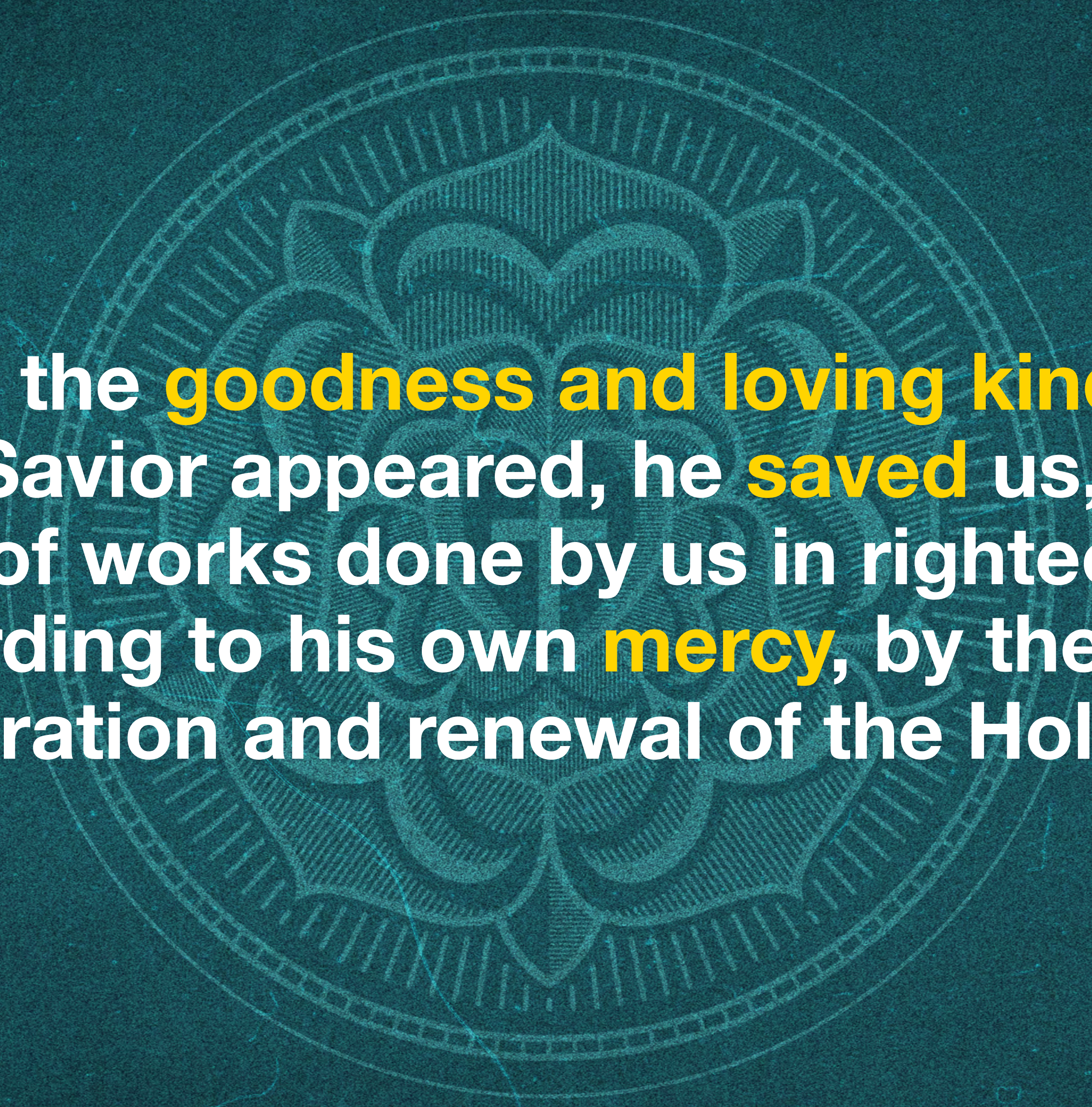
For **the wages of sin is death**, but the free gift  
of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Romans 6:23 ESV*

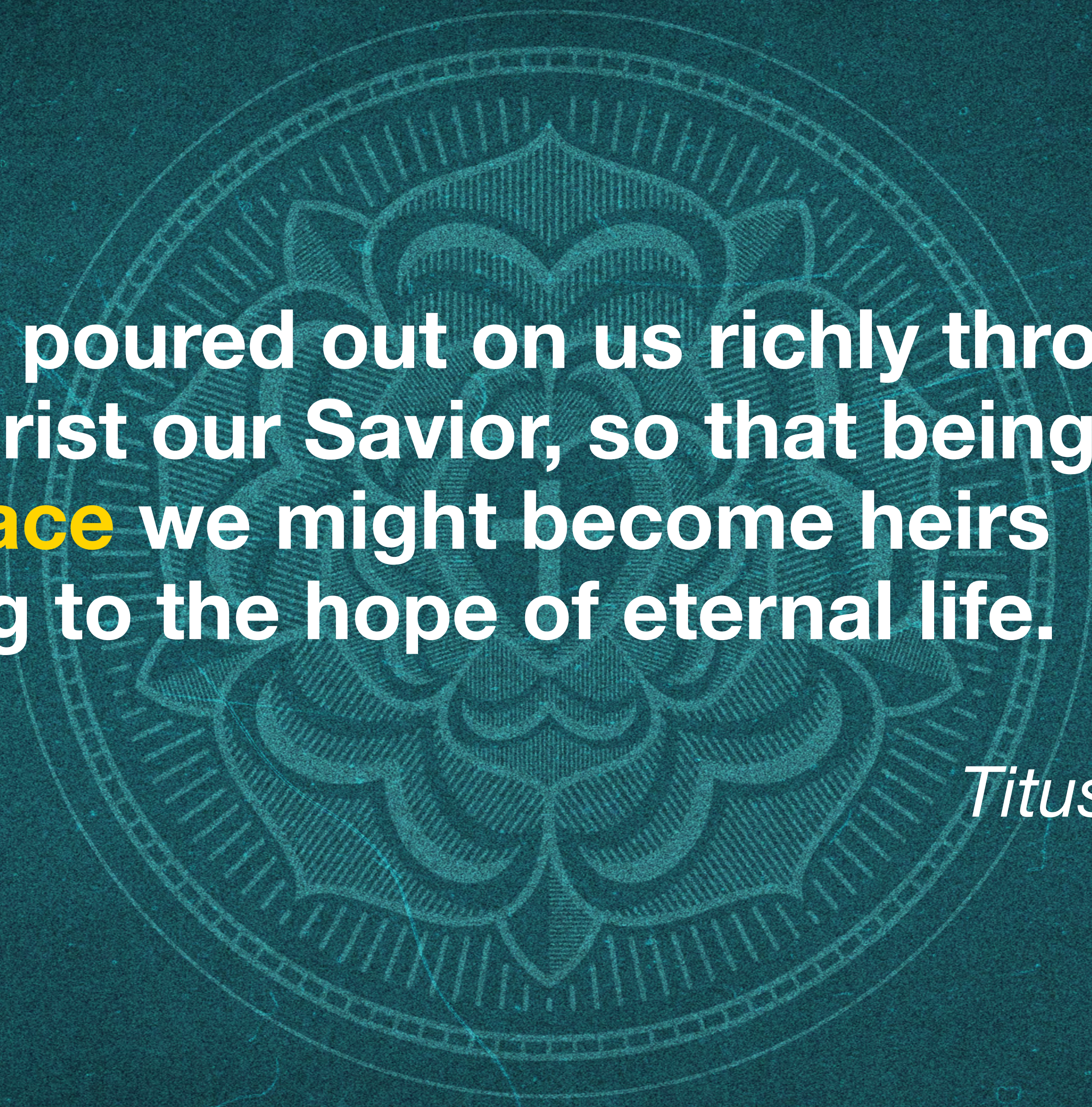
## 4. God Initiates The Rescue Due To His Grace

The Lord passed before him and proclaimed,  
“The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and  
gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in  
steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping  
steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity  
and transgression and sin.”

*Exodus 34:6-7 ESV*



But when the **goodness and loving kindness** of God our Savior appeared, he **saved** us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own **mercy**, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,



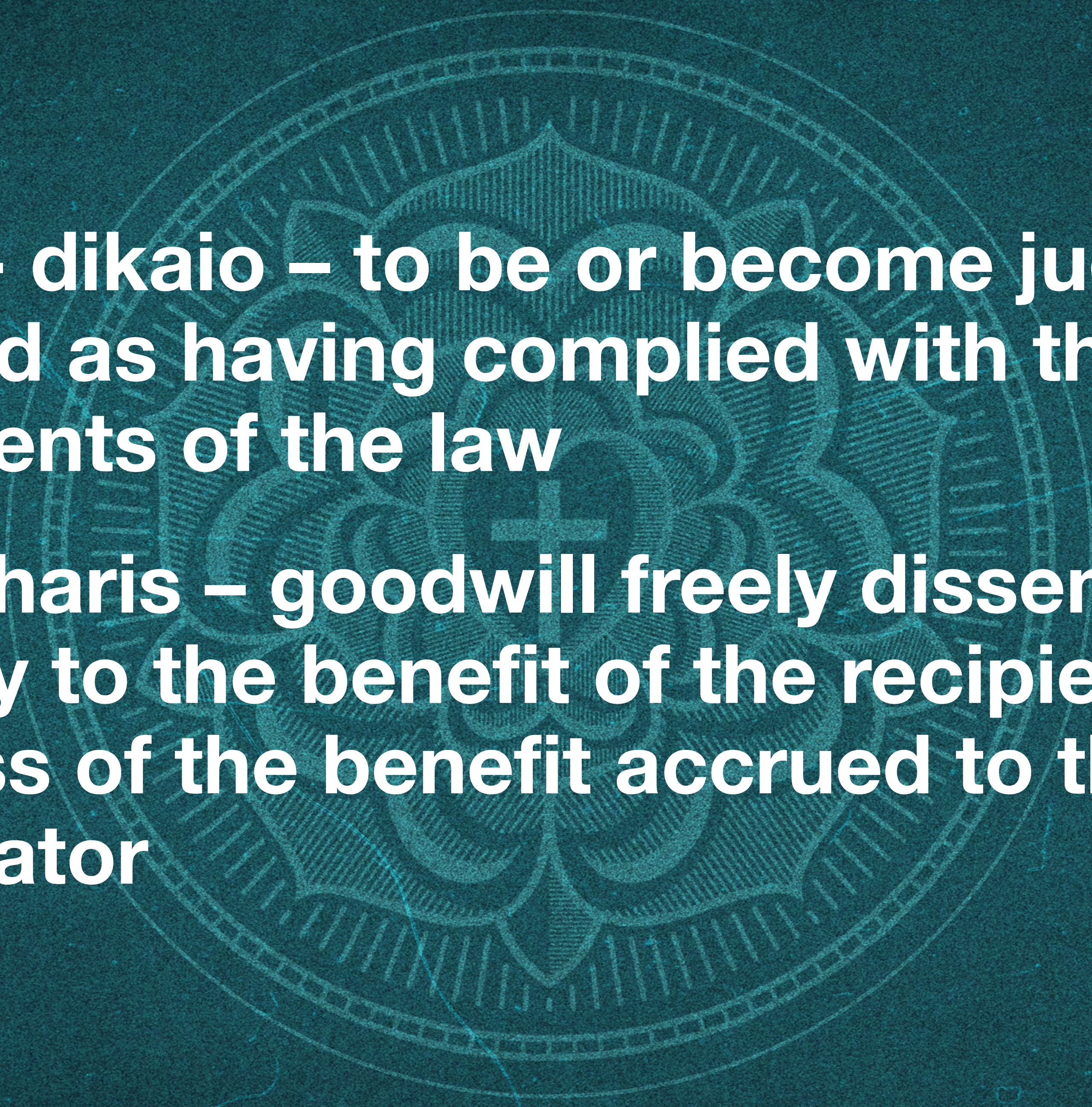
whom he poured out on us richly through  
Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being **justified**  
by his **grace** we might become heirs  
according to the hope of eternal life.

*Titus 3:4-7 ESV*

**loving kindness** – philanthropia – motivated by concern for the alleviation of suffering

**saved** – sozo – rescue from sin and consequential judgment

**mercy** – eleos – leniency and compassion shown toward offenders by a person or agency of authority; pity for



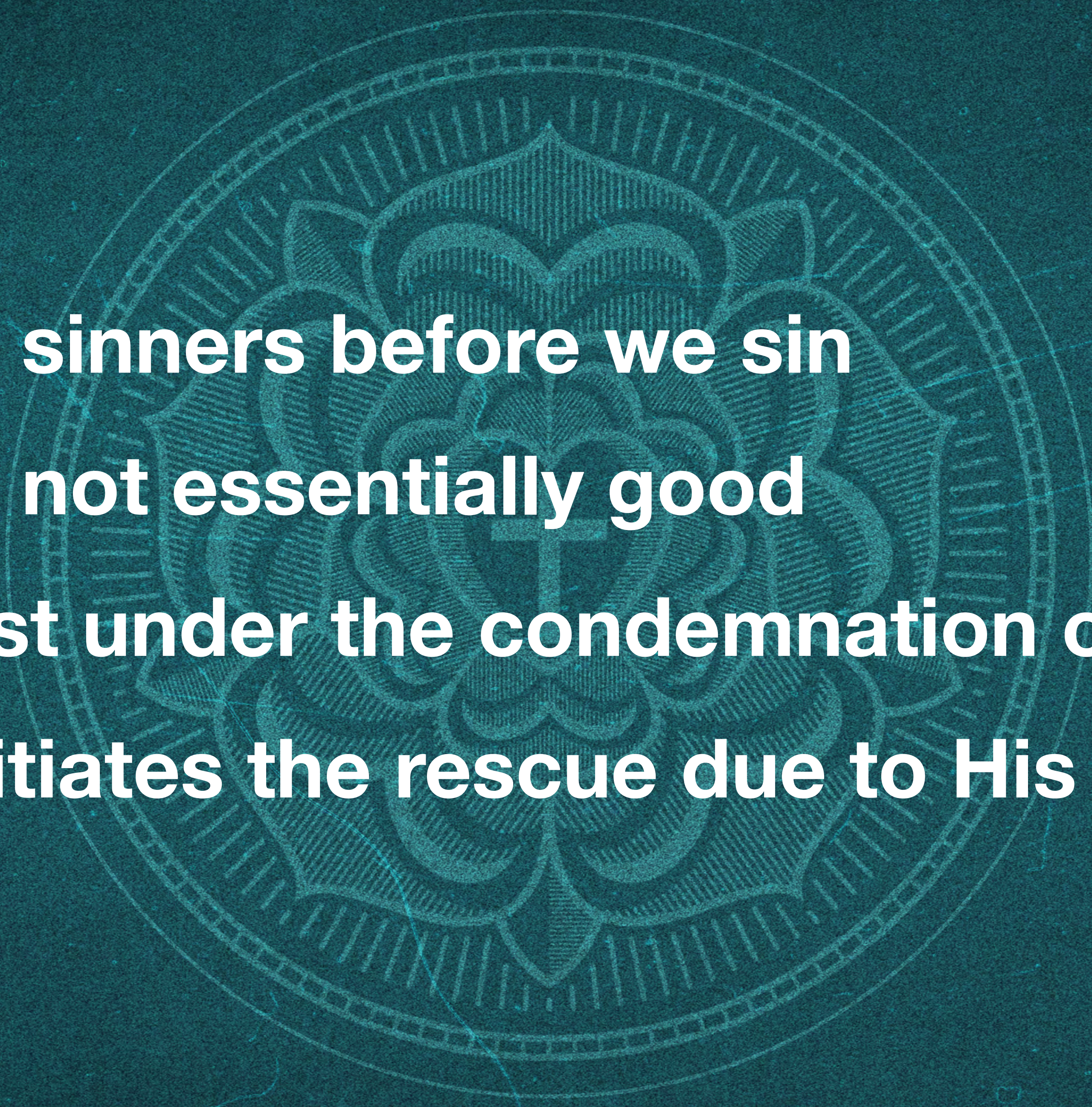
**justified** - dikaios – to be or become judicially vindicated as having complied with the requirements of the law

**grace** - charis – goodwill freely disseminated especially to the benefit of the recipient regardless of the benefit accrued to the disseminator

# Saved By Grace, Through Faith

And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

*Genesis 15:6 ESV*

- 
- 1. We are sinners before we sin**
  - 2. We are not essentially good**
  - 3. We exist under the condemnation of God**
  - 4. God initiates the rescue due to His grace**

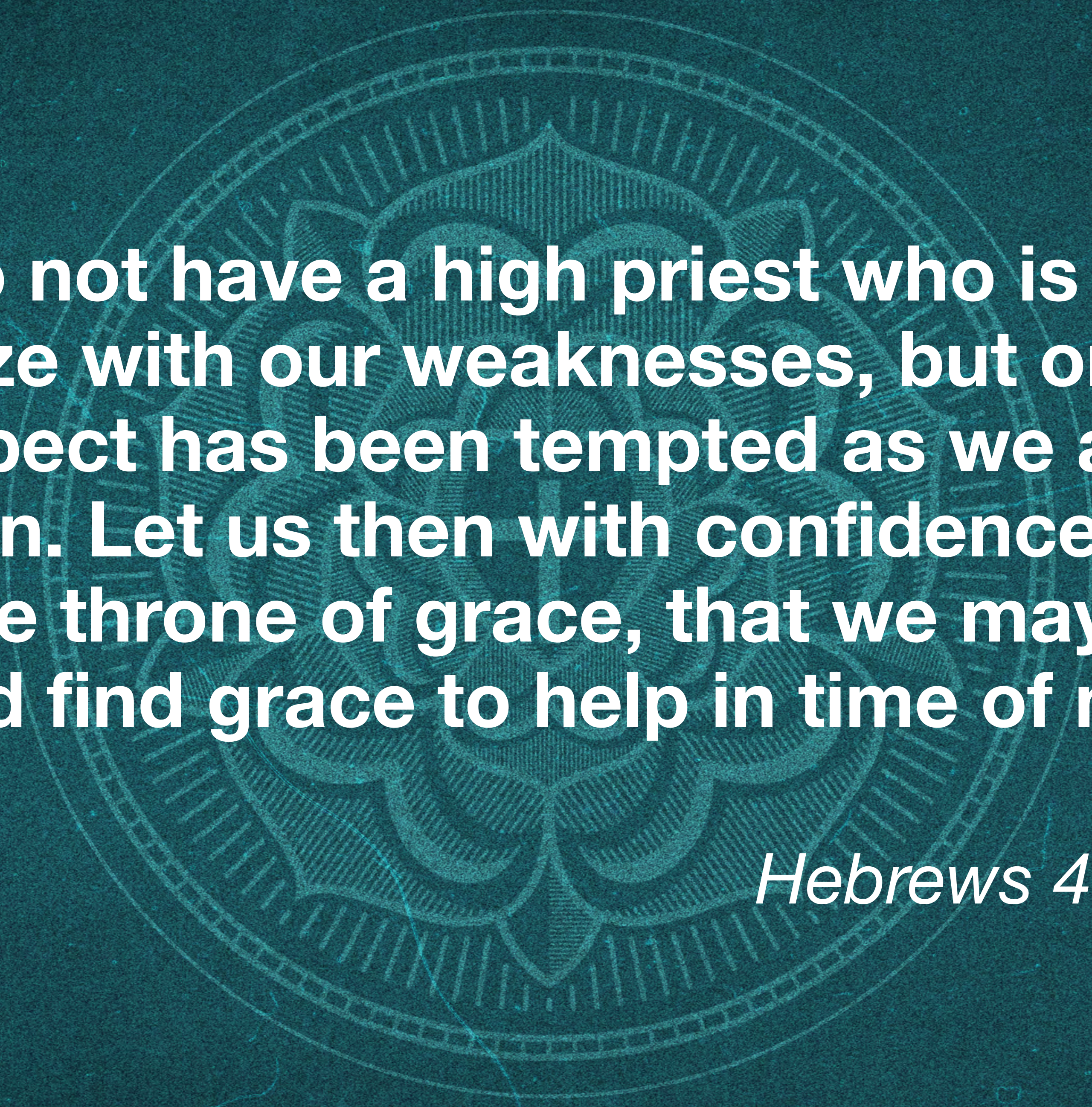


# **1. Embrace: We Are Fallen But Valued**

## 2. Embrace: We Are Saved By Grace, To Live By Grace

Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

*2 Corinthians 12:8-9 ESV*



**For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

*Hebrews 4:15-16 ESV*

### **3. Recognize: Everything I Have Is A Gift**

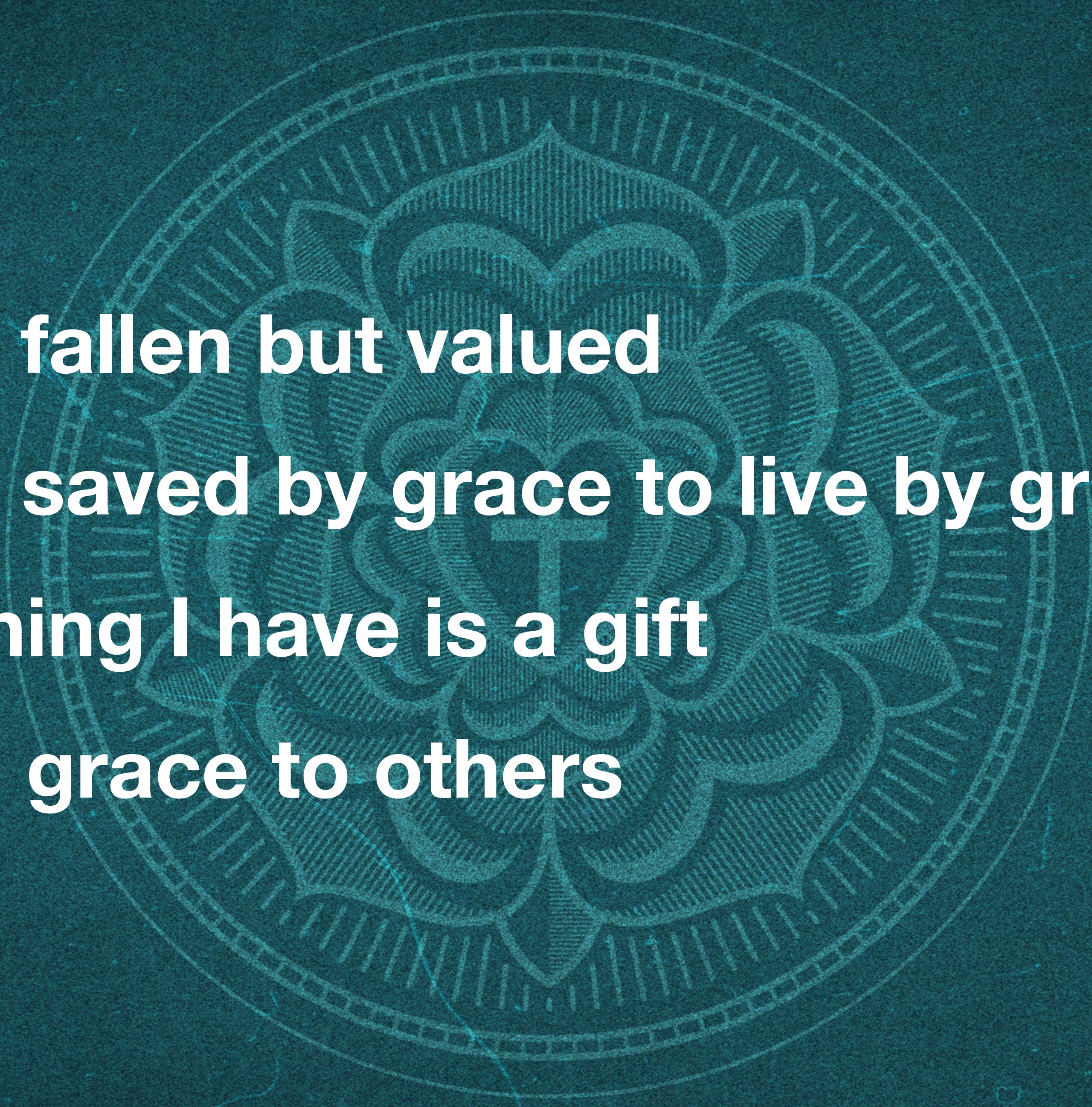
**Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights...**

*James 1:17 ESV*

## 4. Therefore: Extend Grace To Others

**Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.**

*Ephesians 4:32 ESV*

- 
- 1. We are fallen but valued**
  - 2. We are saved by grace to live by grace**
  - 3. Everything I have is a gift**
  - 4. Extend grace to others**