

The Five Solas

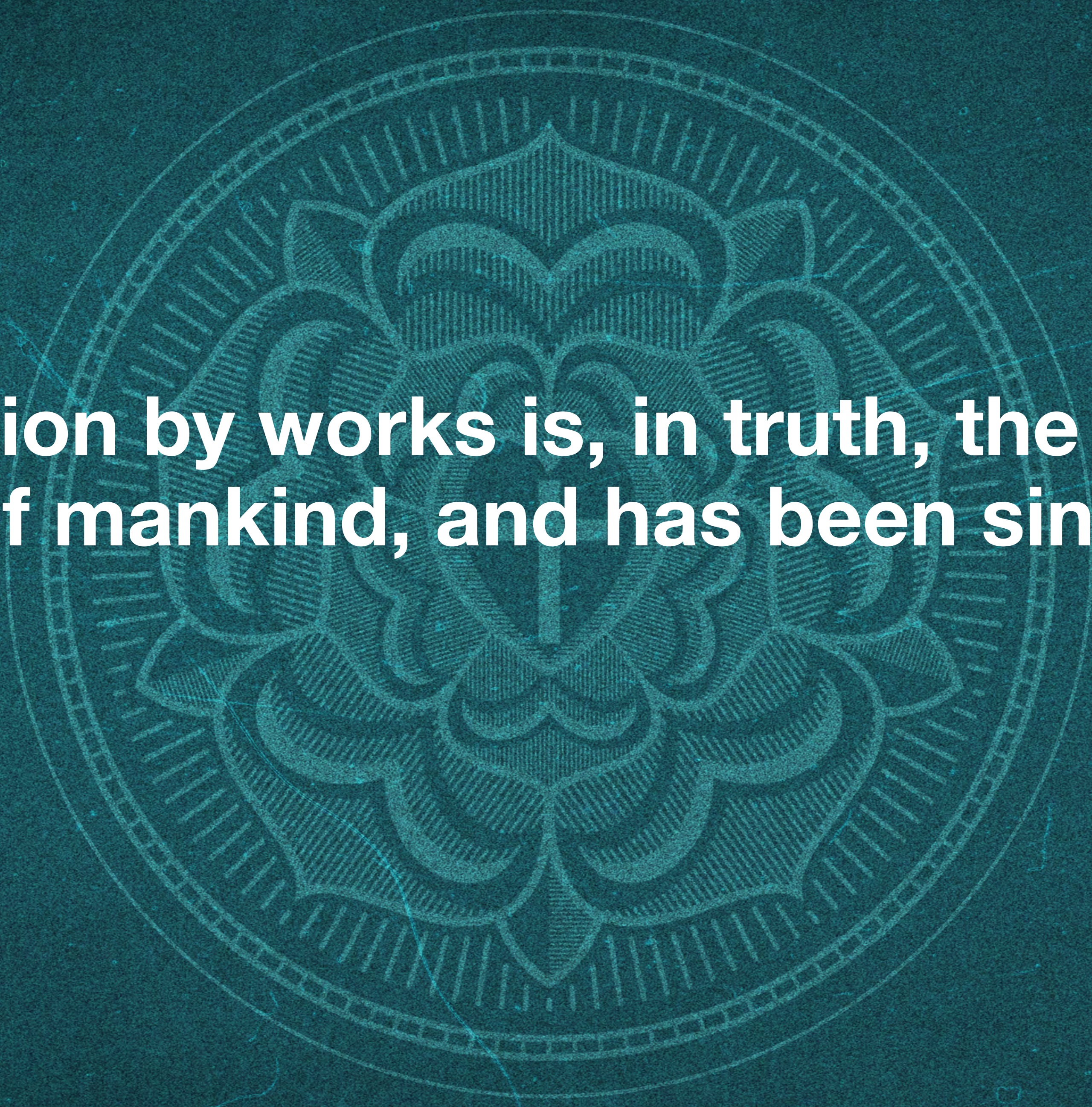
Week 3

Sola Fide & The Proper Place of Works

Senior Teaching Pastor Jim Supp — Reston Bible Church — Sunday, September 27, 2026

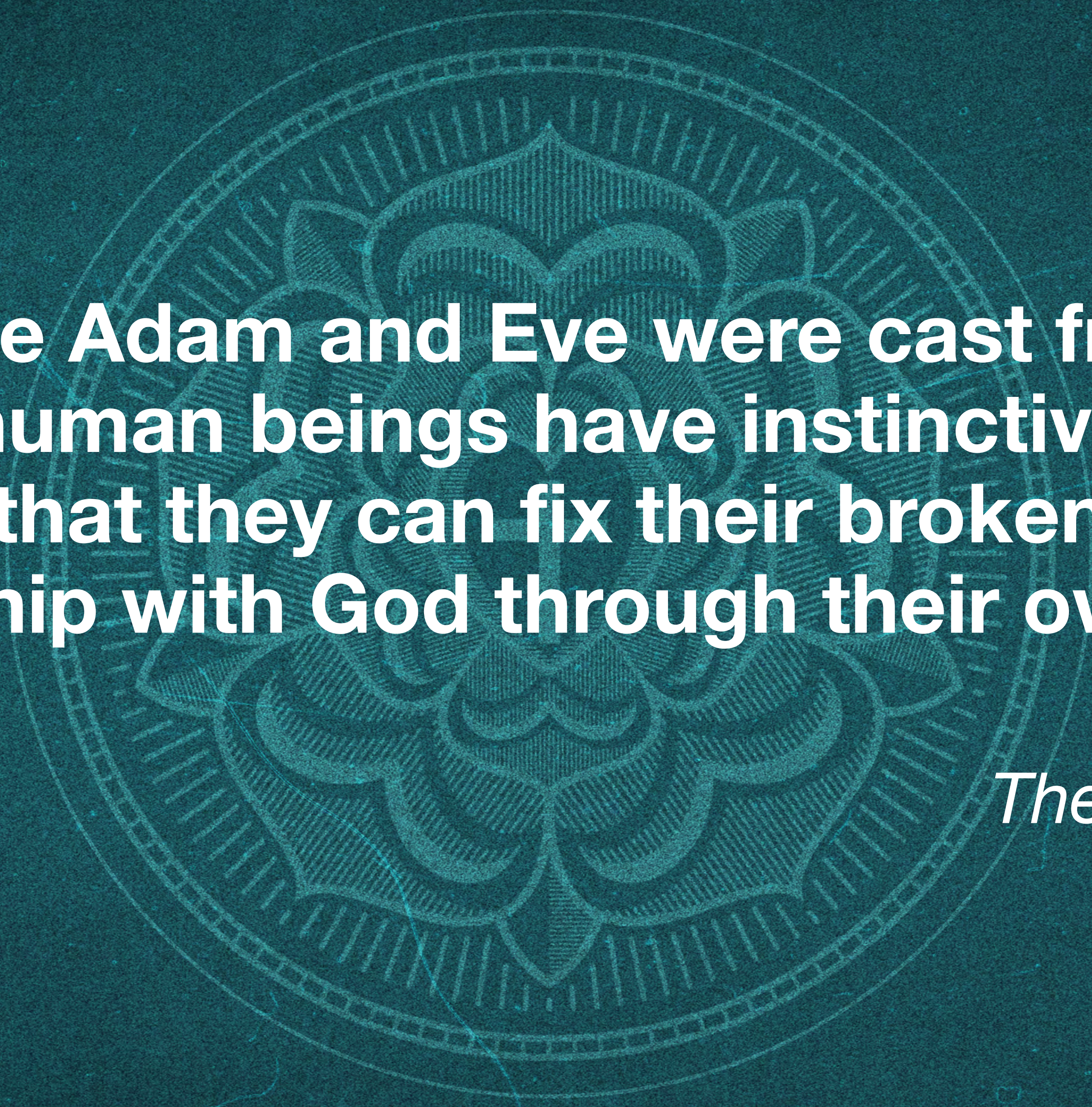


Through Faith Alone & The Proper Place Of Works



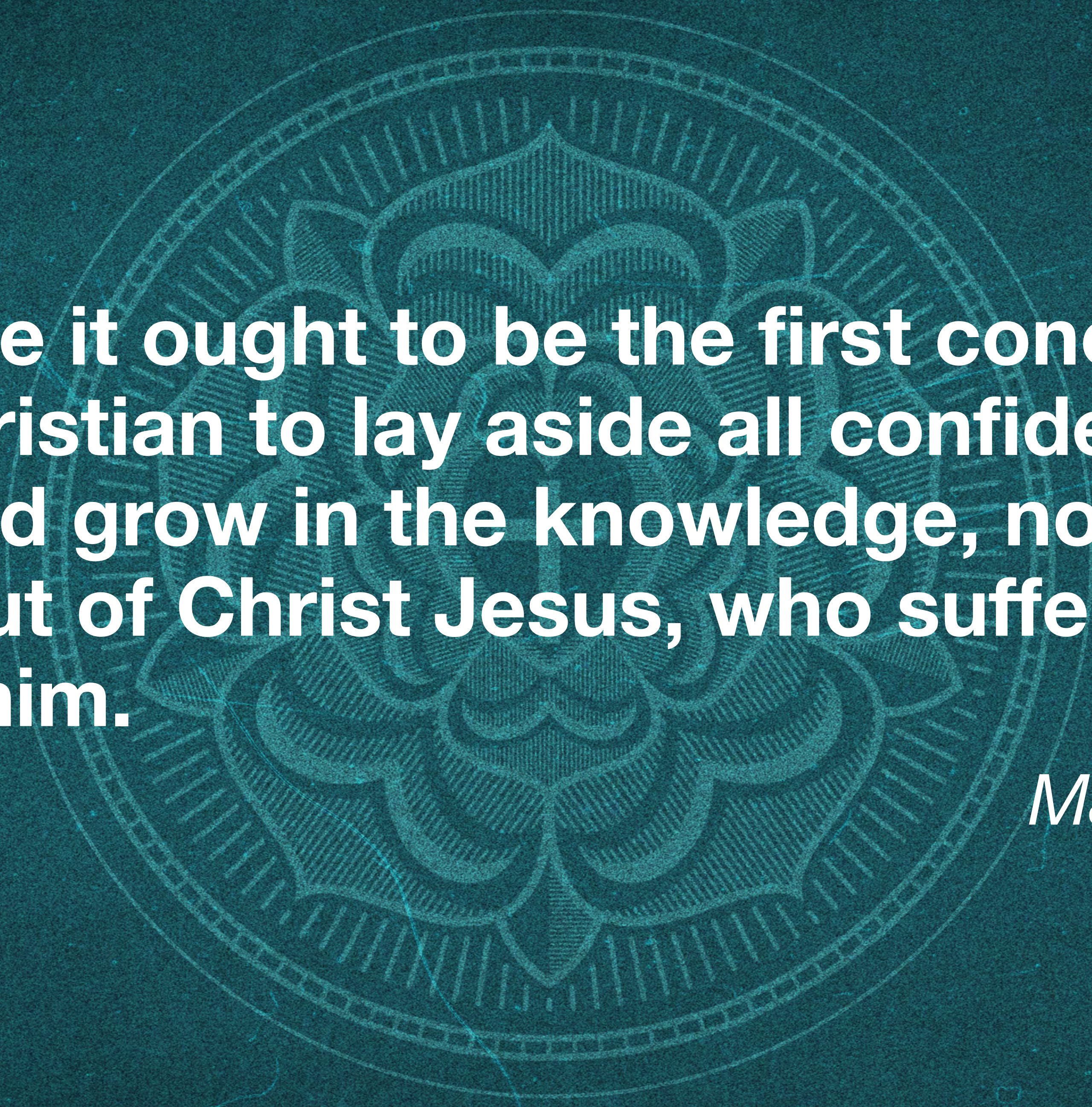
Justification by works is, in truth, the natural religion of mankind, and has been since the fall.

J.I. Packer



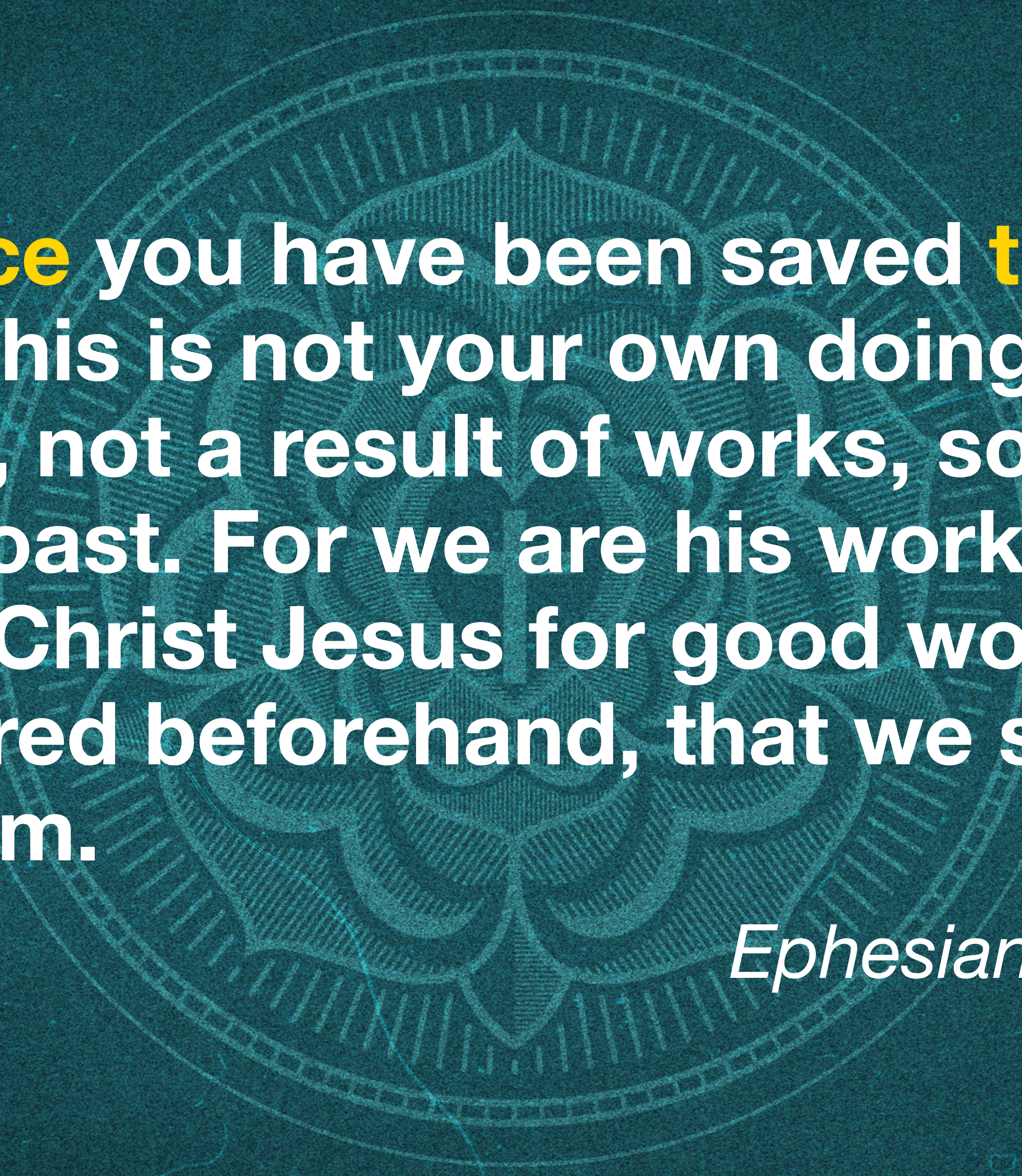
Ever since Adam and Eve were cast from the garden, human beings have instinctively believed that they can fix their broken relationship with God through their own effort.

The Five Solas



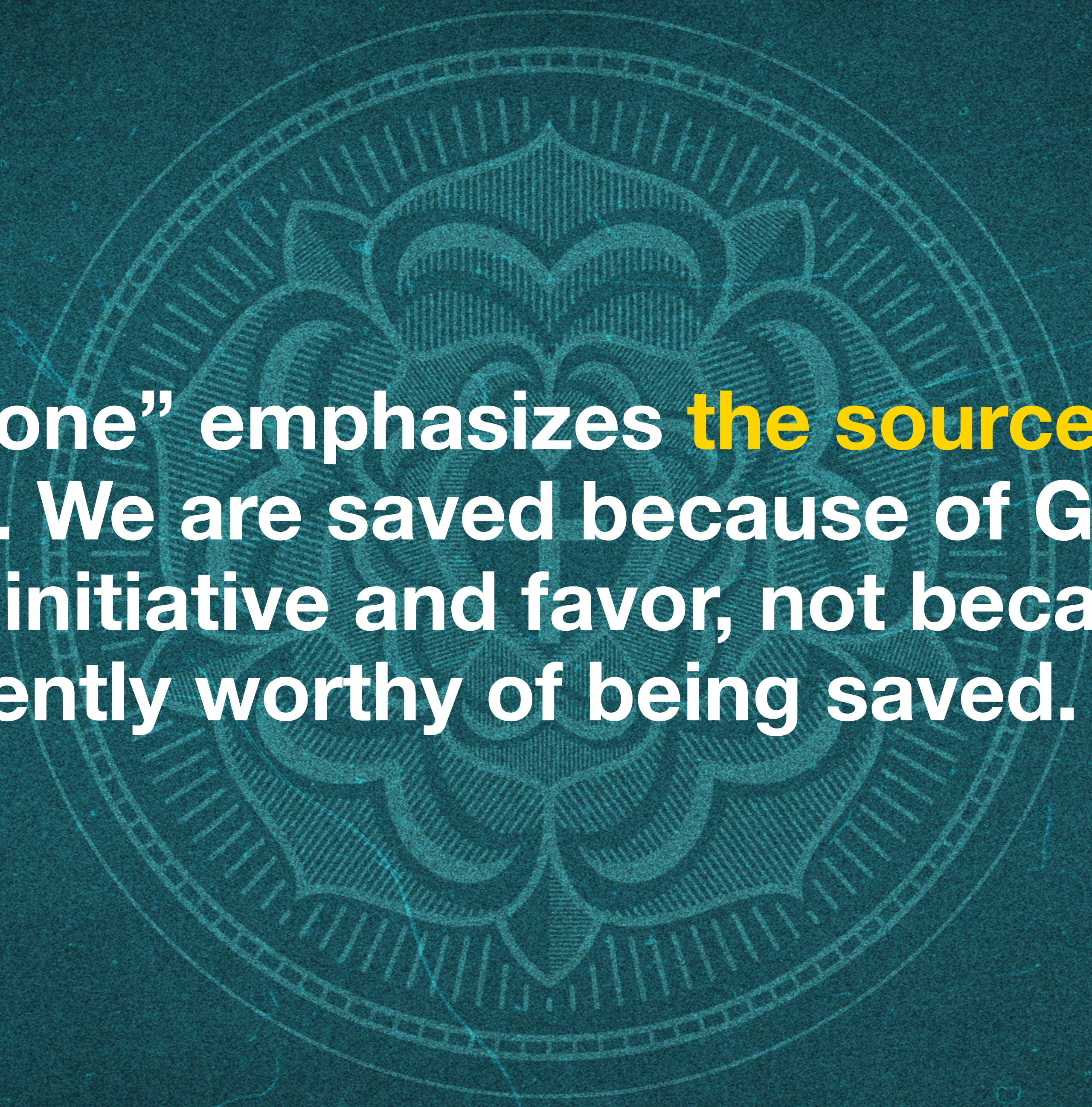
Wherefore it ought to be the first concern of every Christian to lay aside all confidence in works and grow in the knowledge, not of works, but of Christ Jesus, who suffered and rose for him.

Martin Luther

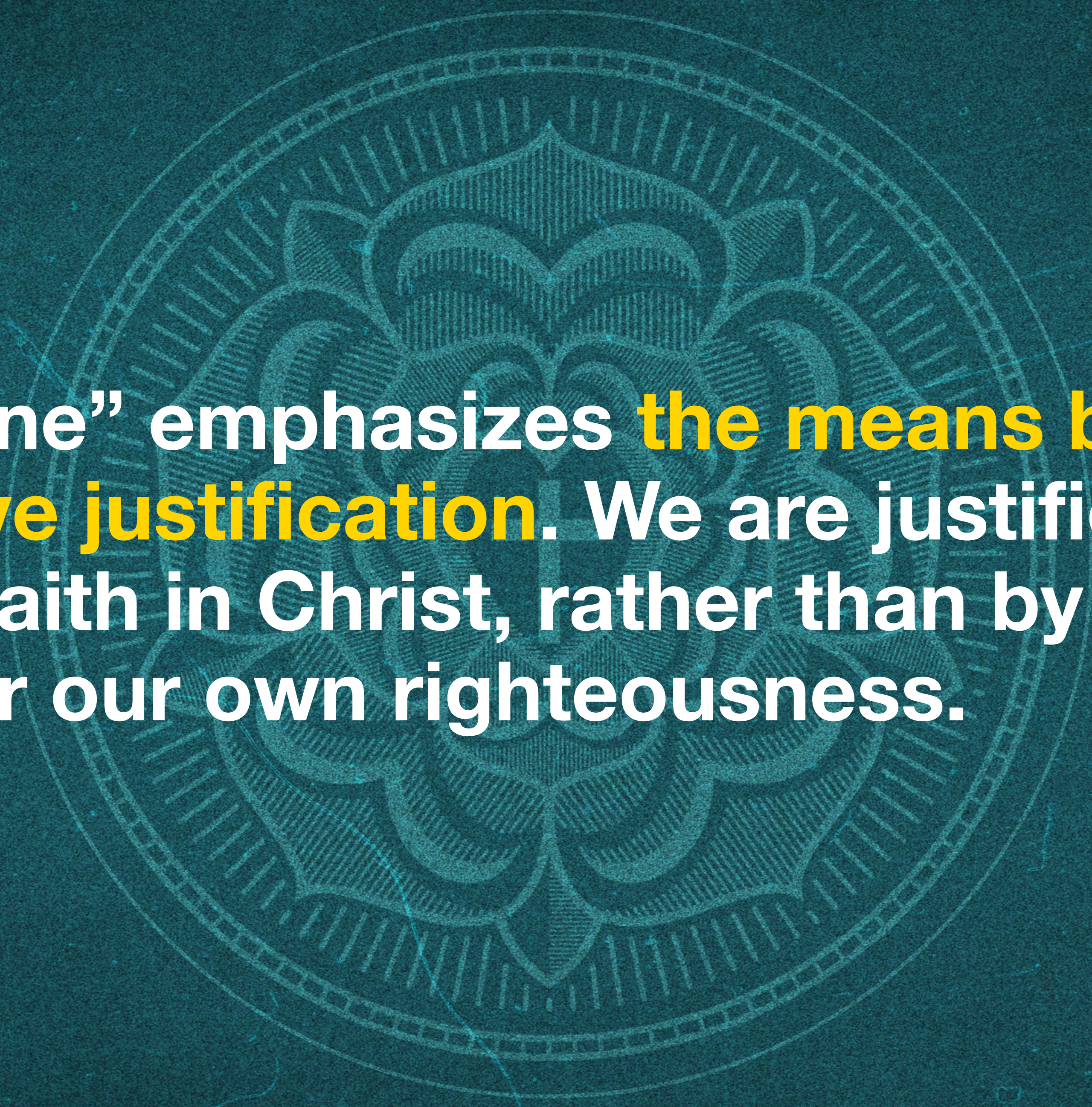


For **by grace** you have been saved **through faith**. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

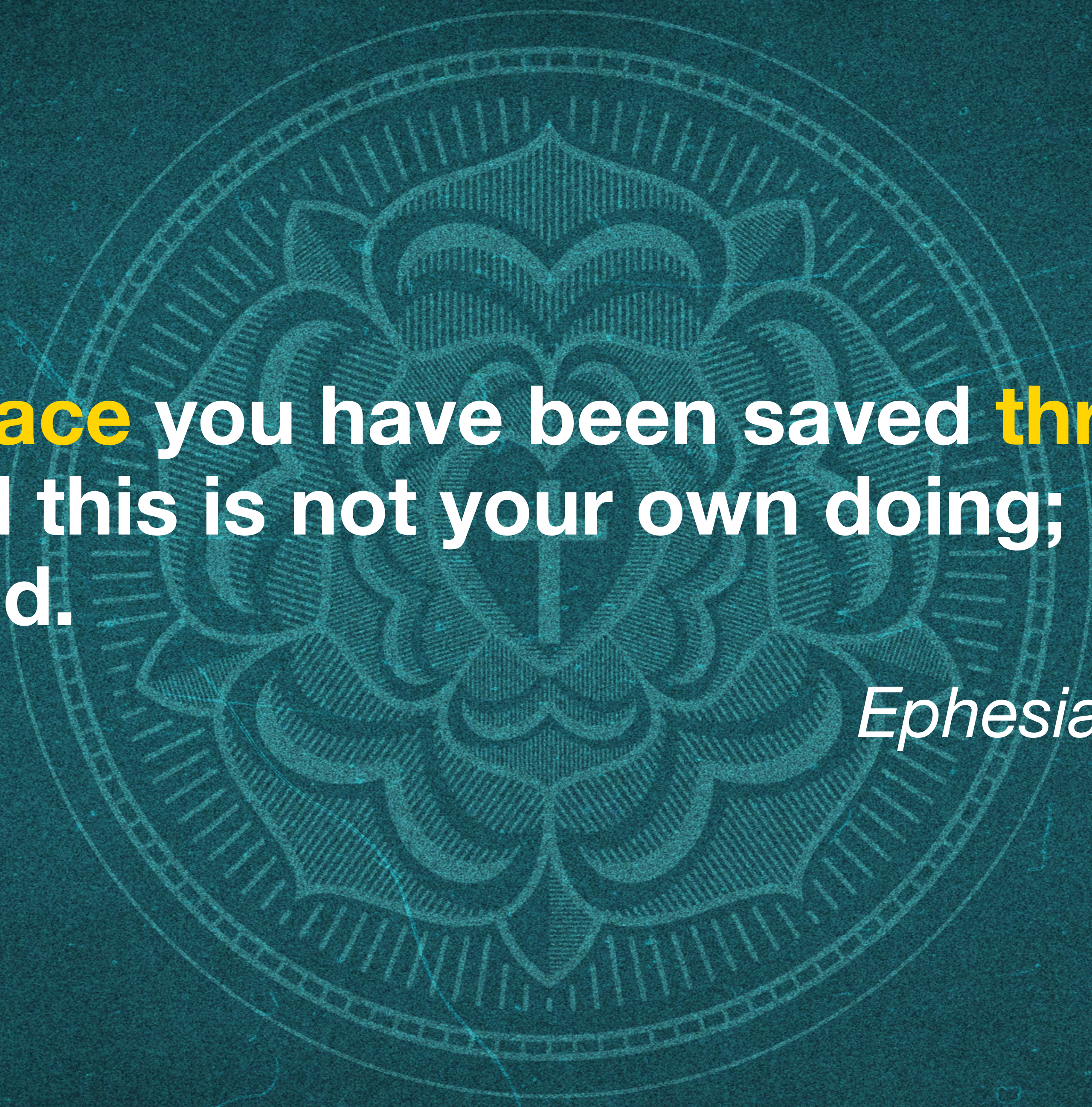
Ephesians 2:8-10 ESV



“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.



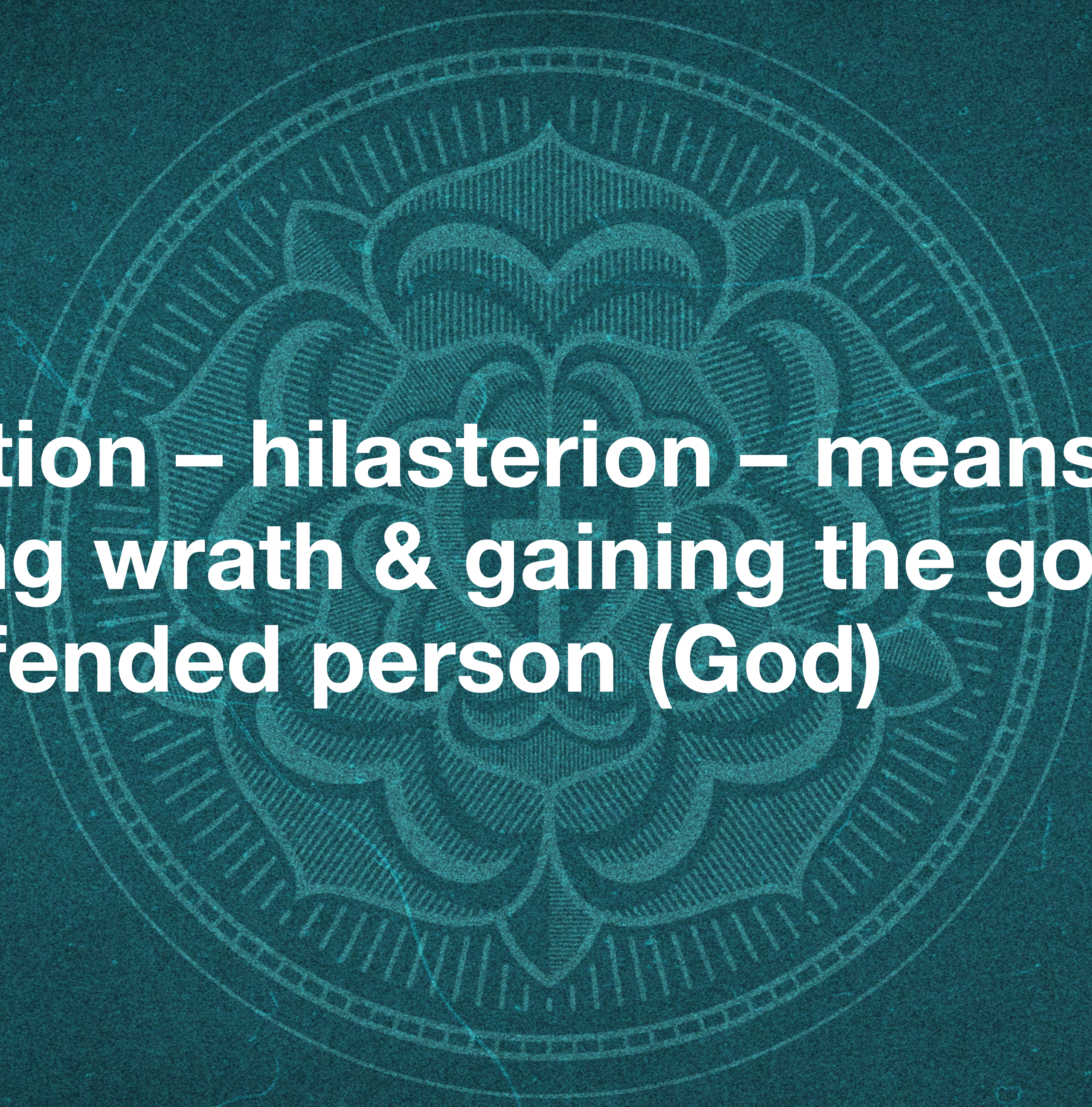
For **by grace** you have been saved **through faith**. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

Ephesians 2:8 ESV

1. All Are Equally Lost

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

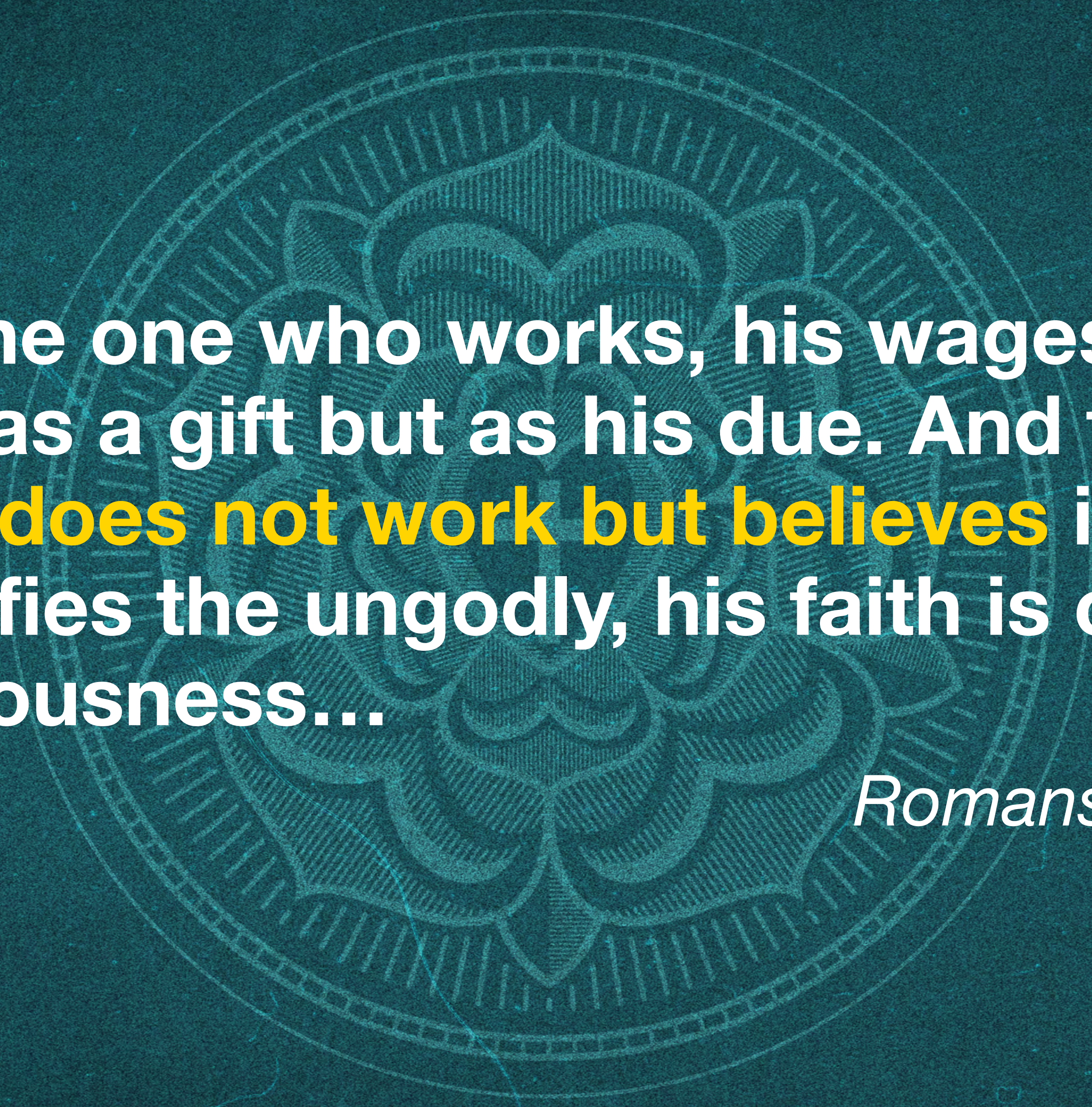


**propitiation – hilasterion – means of
satisfying wrath & gaining the good will
of an offended person (God)**

2. Salvation By Works Requires Perfection

For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by **all things** written in the Book of the Law, and do them.”

Galatians 3:10 ESV



Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one **who does not work but believes** in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness...

Romans 4:4-5 ESV

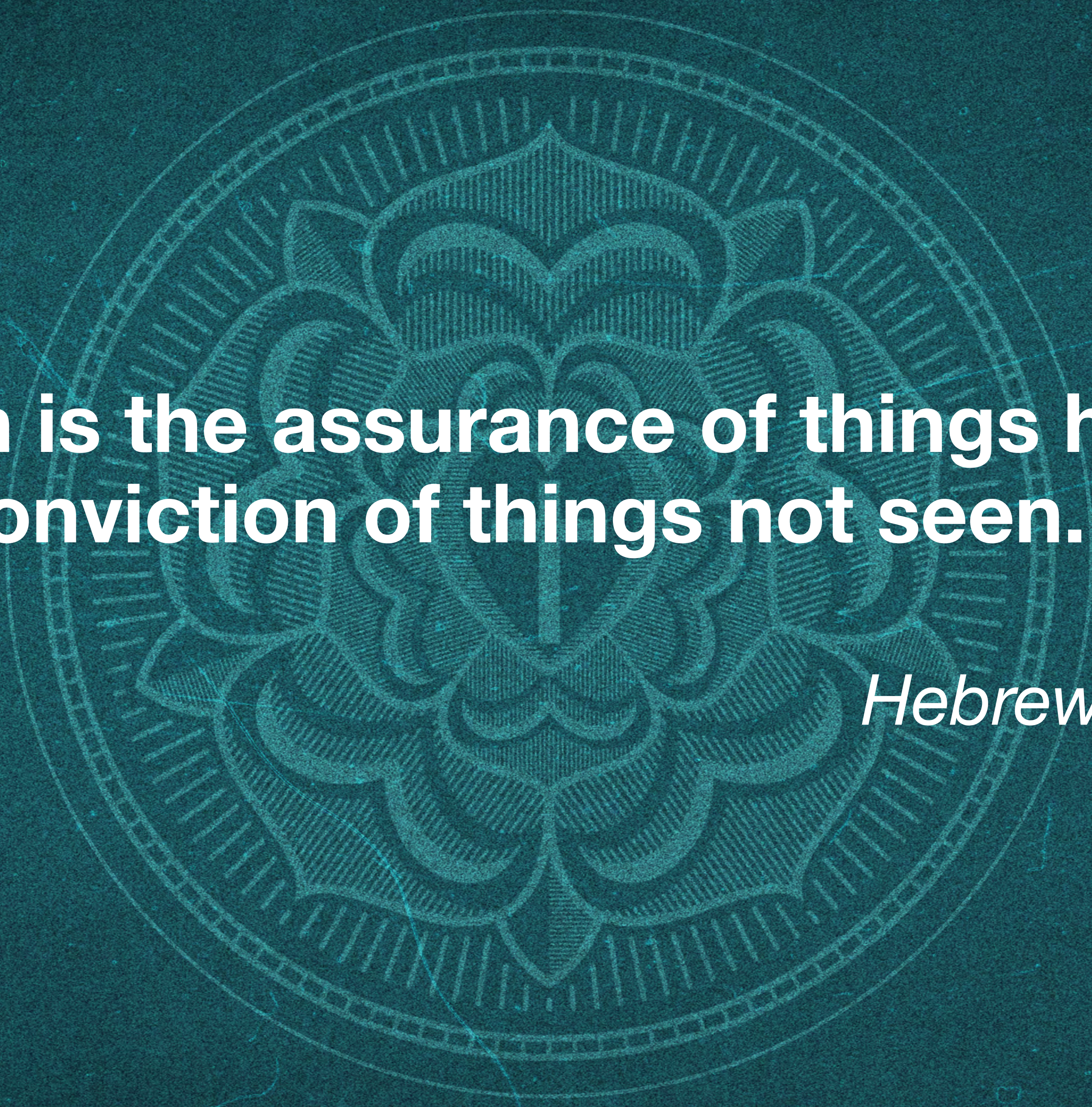
3. Mental Assent Is Not Saving Faith

**You believe that God is one; you do well. Even
the demons believe — and shudder!**

James 2:19 ESV

Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

1 John 2:4-6 ESV



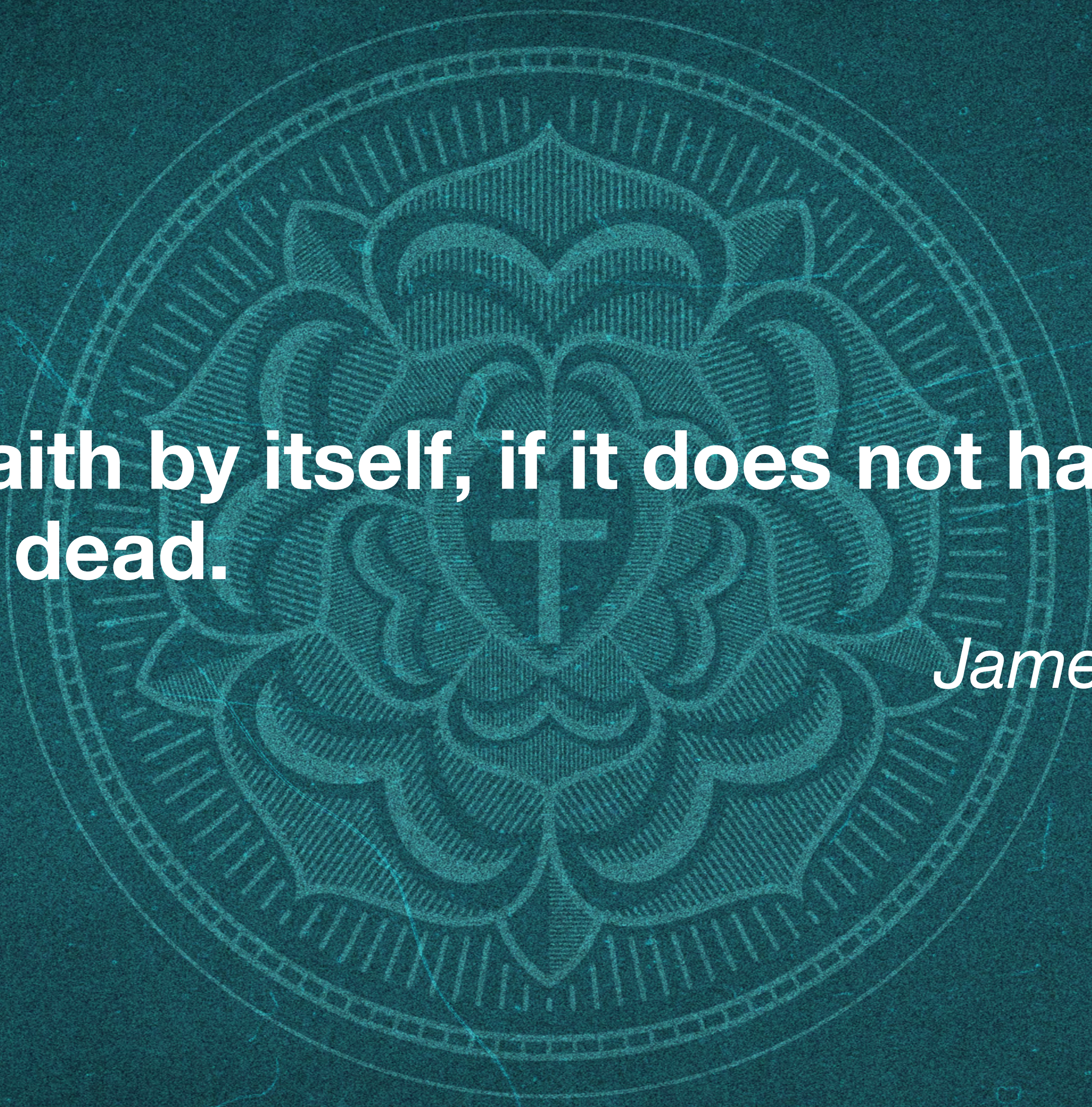
**Now faith is the assurance of things hoped
for, the conviction of things not seen.**

Hebrews 11:1 ESV

4. Genuine Faith Will Be Validated By Works

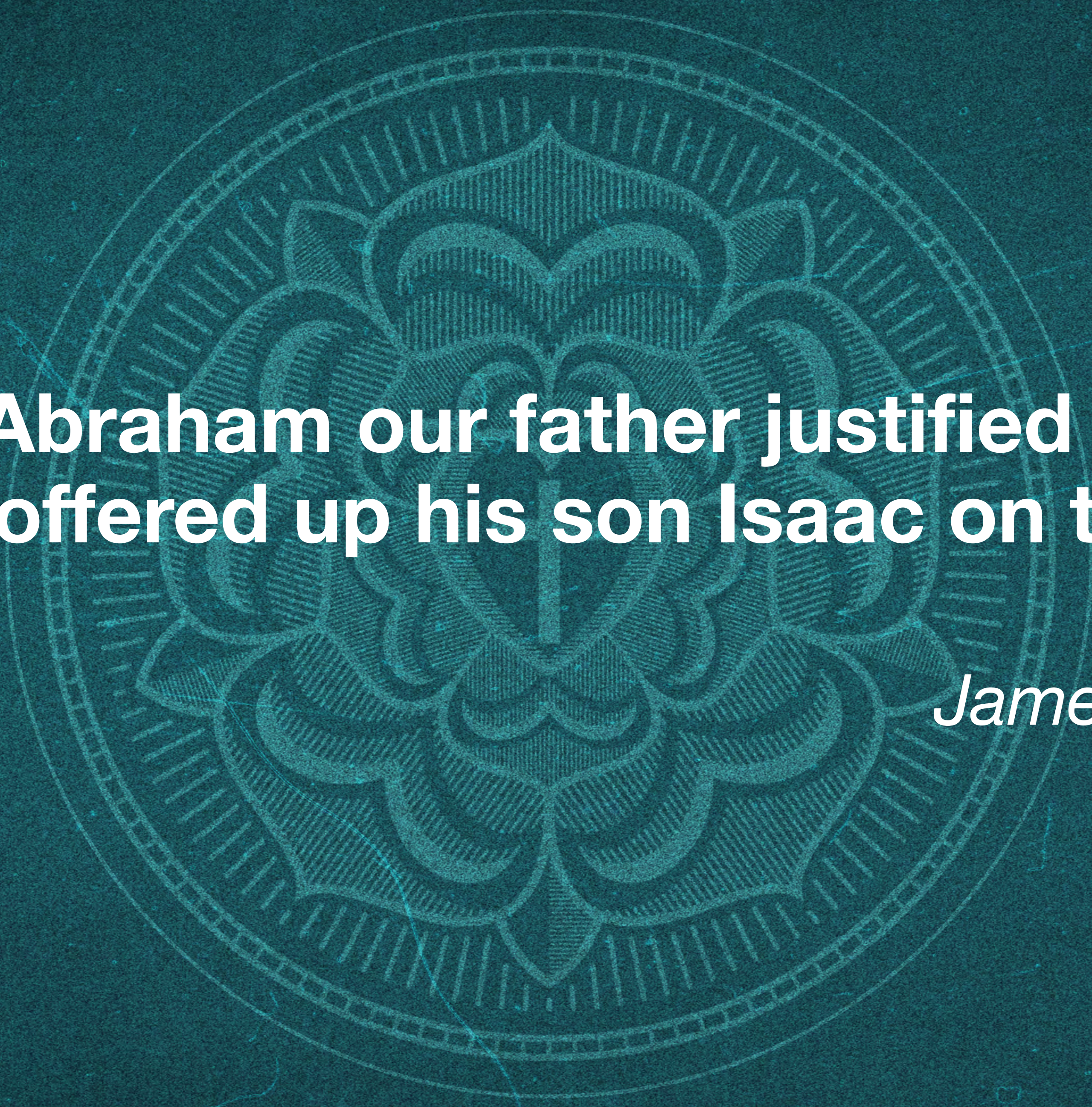
It is therefore faith alone which justifies, and
yet the faith that justifies is never alone.

John Calvin



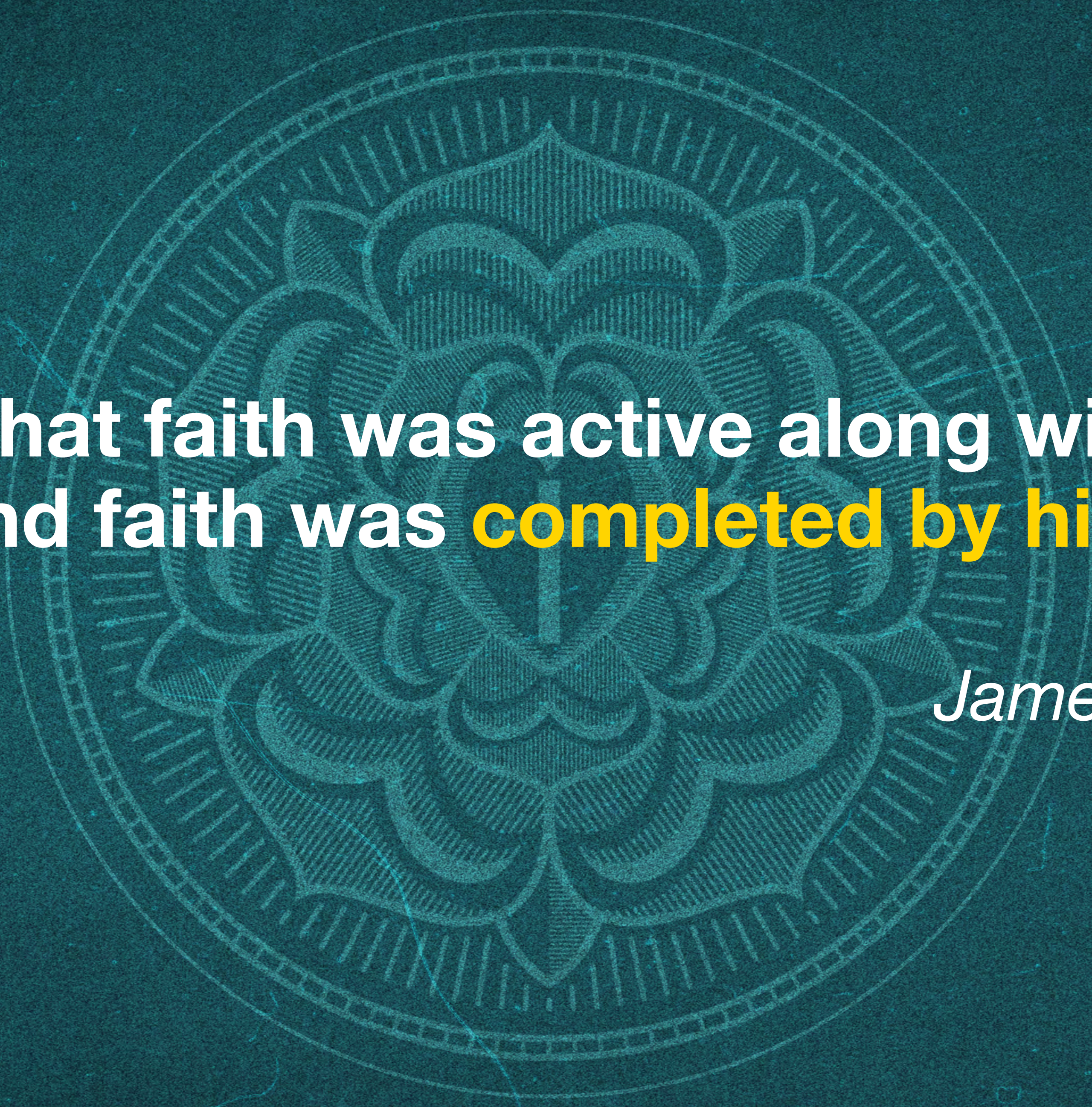
**So also faith by itself, if it does not have
works, is dead.**

James 2:17 ESV



**Was not Abraham our father justified by works
when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar?**

James 2:21 ESV



You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was **completed by his works.**

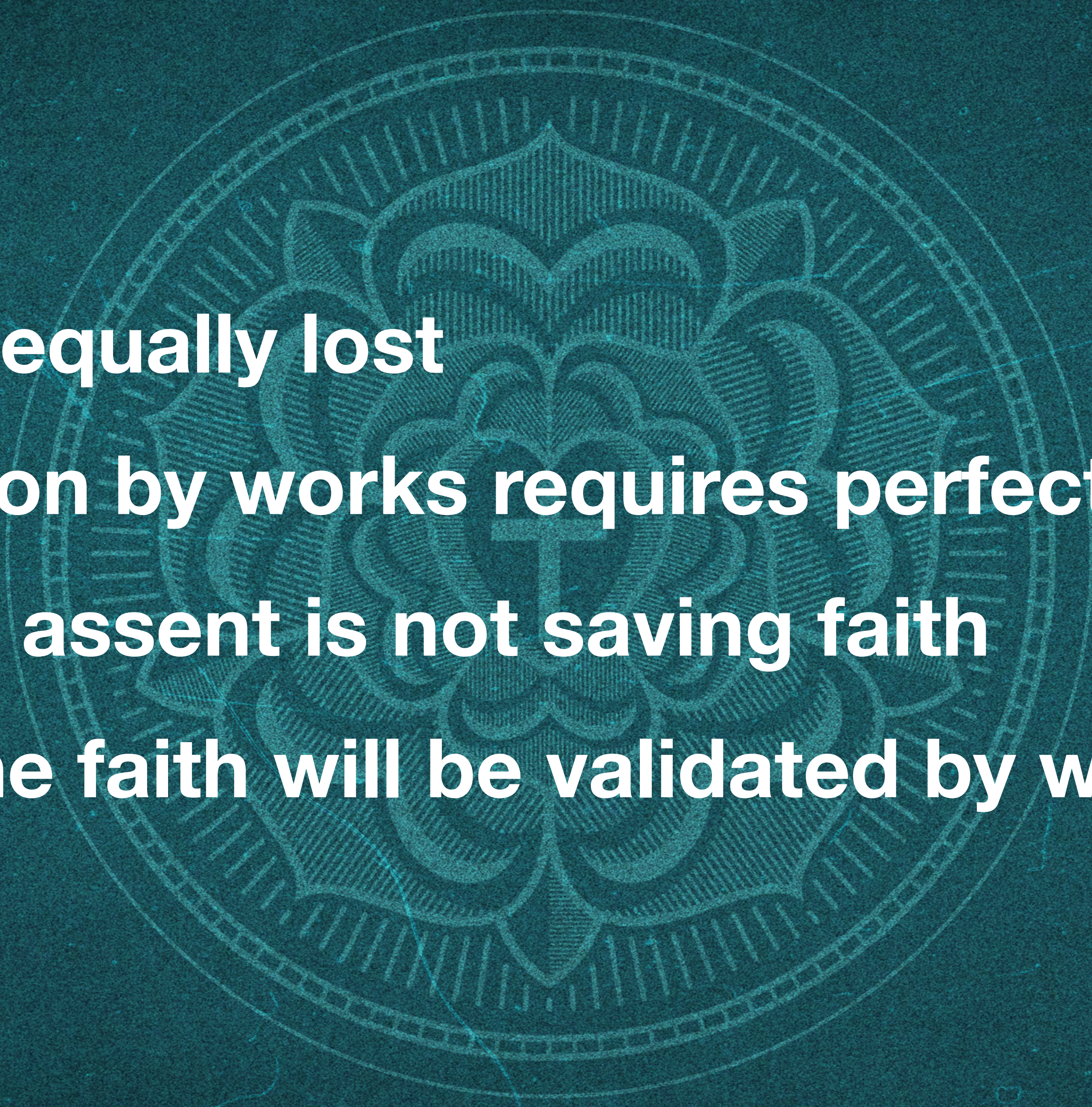
James 2:22 ESV

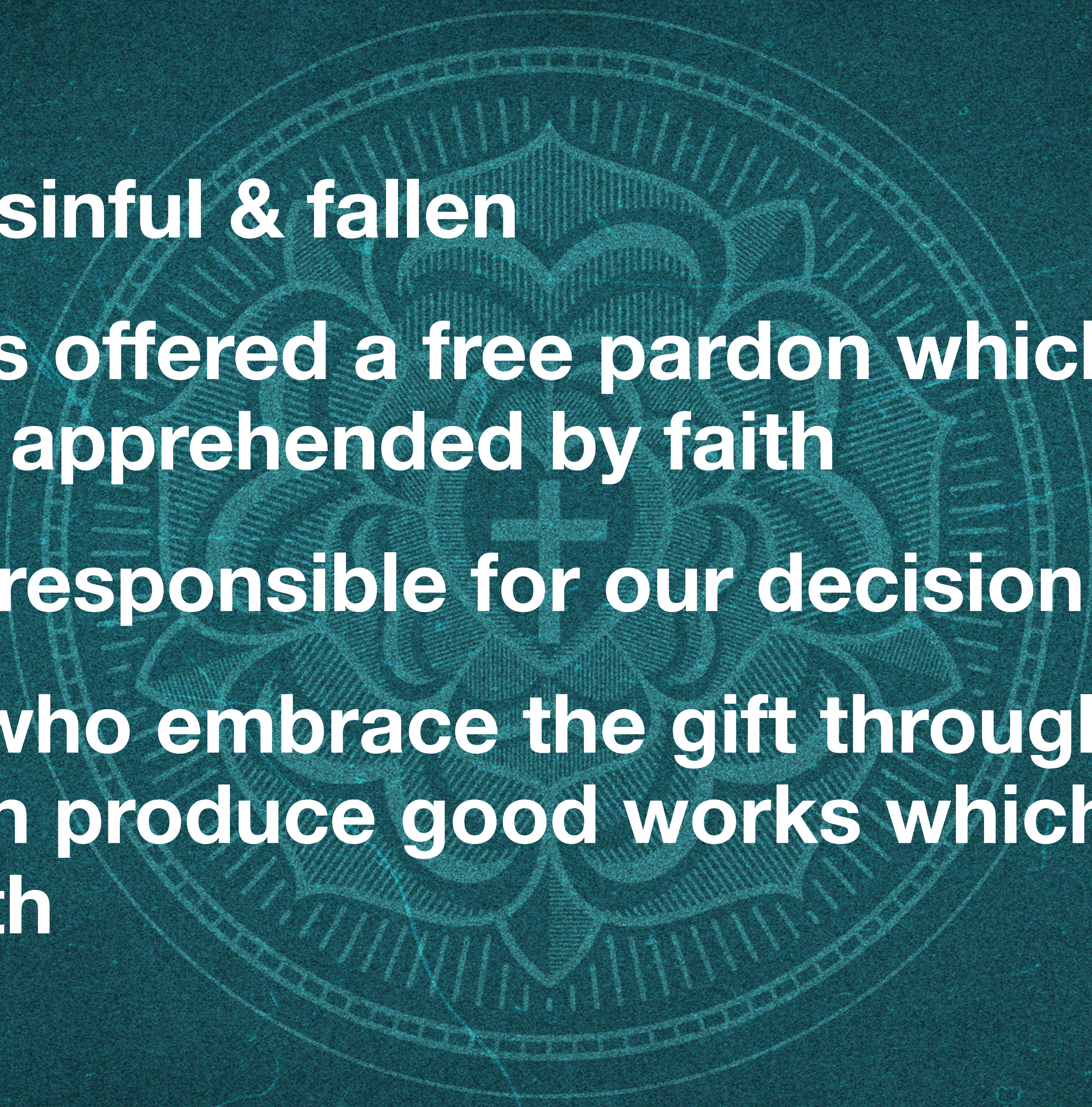


**completed – teleioo – brought to
completion, to finish, fulfill**

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

James 2:14-17 ESV

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- 1. All are equally lost**
 - 2. Salvation by works requires perfection**
 - 3. Mental assent is not saving faith**
 - 4. Genuine faith will be validated by works**

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- **We are sinful & fallen**
 - **God has offered a free pardon which can only be apprehended by faith**
 - **We are responsible for our decision**
 - **Those who embrace the gift through faith will then produce good works which validate that faith**

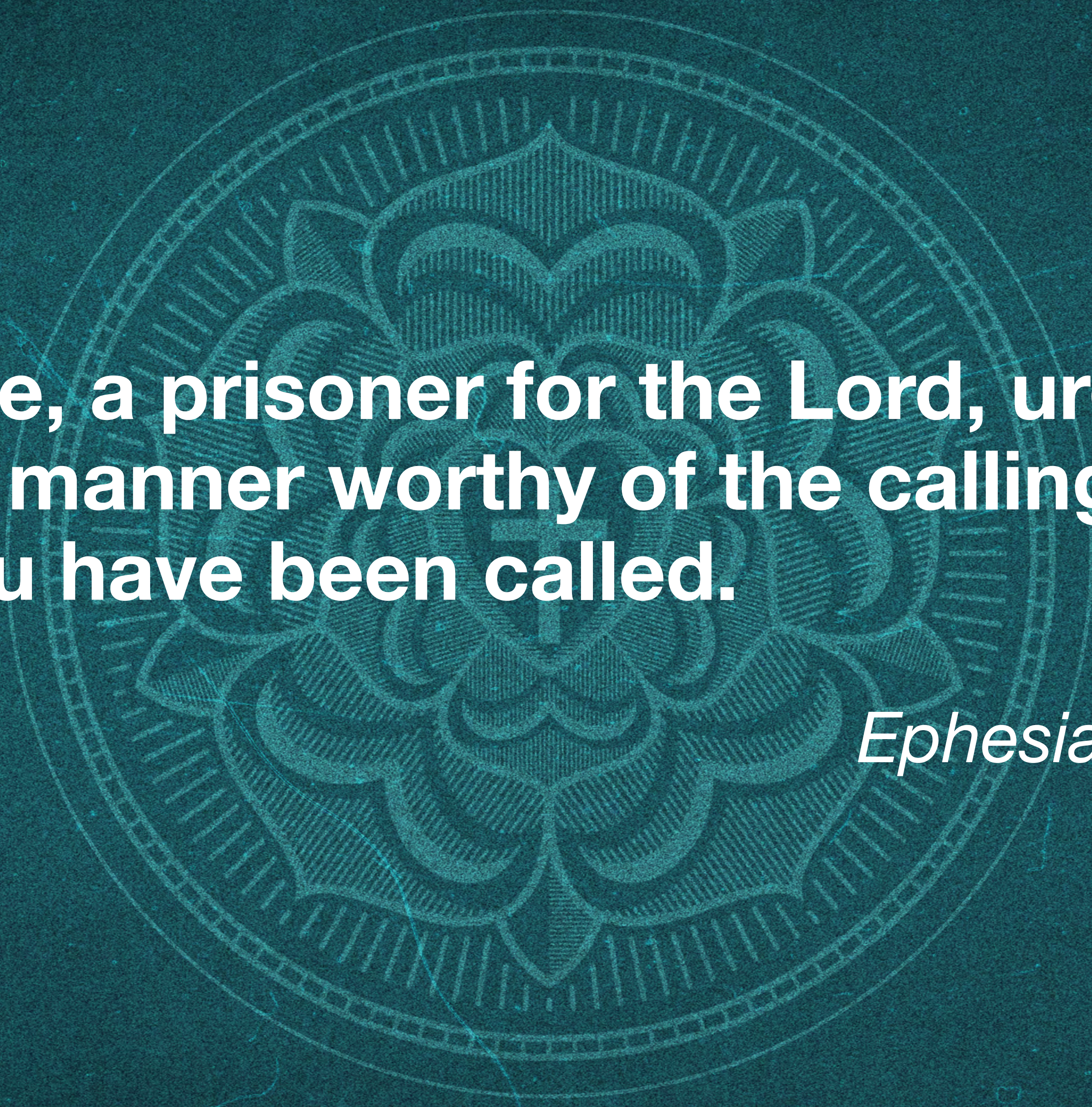


1. In Whom Or What Is Your Faith?

2. Where Do Works Find Their Place For You?

If anyone would feel the greatness of sin he would not be able to go on living another moment; so great is the power of sin.

Martin Luther



I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called.

Ephesians 4:1 ESV