

A circular stained-glass window with a central heart and floral patterns. The heart is dark red and is surrounded by a sunburst pattern. The background is a mix of dark blue and brown tones with intricate floral and scrollwork designs.

**What Makes
Lutherans Different
from other
Protestants?**

2 Samuel 23:2–3

“The Spirit of the LORD spoke through me; his word was on my tongue. The God of Israel spoke, the Rock of Israel said to me: ‘When one rules over men in righteousness, when he rules in the fear of God.’”

Matthew 1:22

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet ...

Acts 28:25

They disagreed among themselves and began to leave after Paul had made this final statement: “The Holy Spirit spoke the truth to your forefathers when he said through Isaiah the prophet ...”

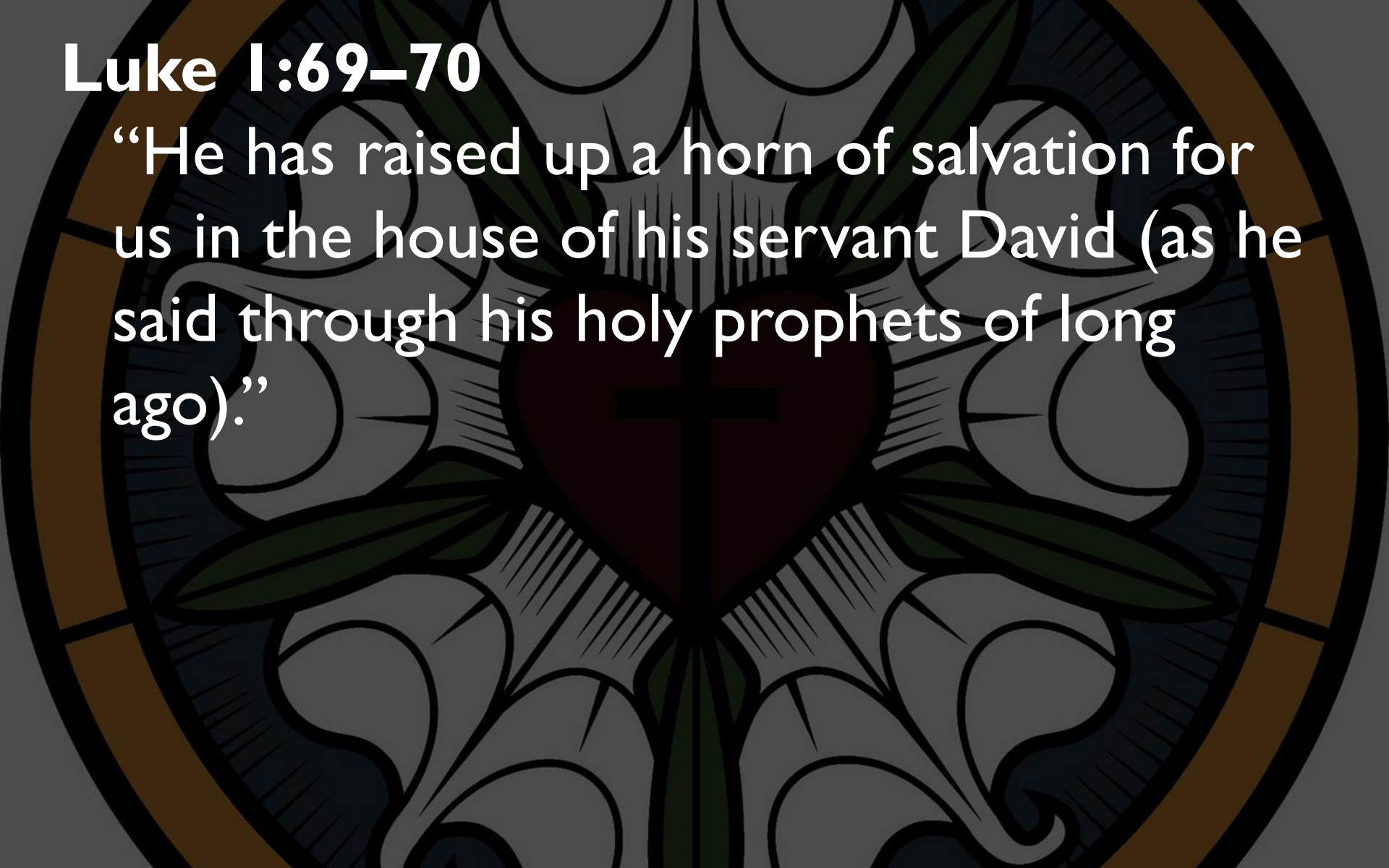
Hebrews 1:1

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways.



Luke 1:69–70

“He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago).”



I Peter 1:10–11

Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.

The background is a circular stained glass design. It features a central dark red heart, surrounded by intricate floral and leaf patterns in shades of green and grey. The entire design is set within a circular frame with a brownish-gold border.

We believe the Bible
is the Word of God.

I Corinthians 2:13

This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.



A circular stained glass window with a central heart and floral patterns. The heart is dark red and surrounded by a sunburst of rays. The background is a mix of dark grey, brown, and green tones with intricate line work.

2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

2 Peter 1:21

For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

John 10:34–35

Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your Law, ‘I have said you are gods’? If he called them ‘gods,’ to whom the word of God came—and the Scripture cannot be broken.”

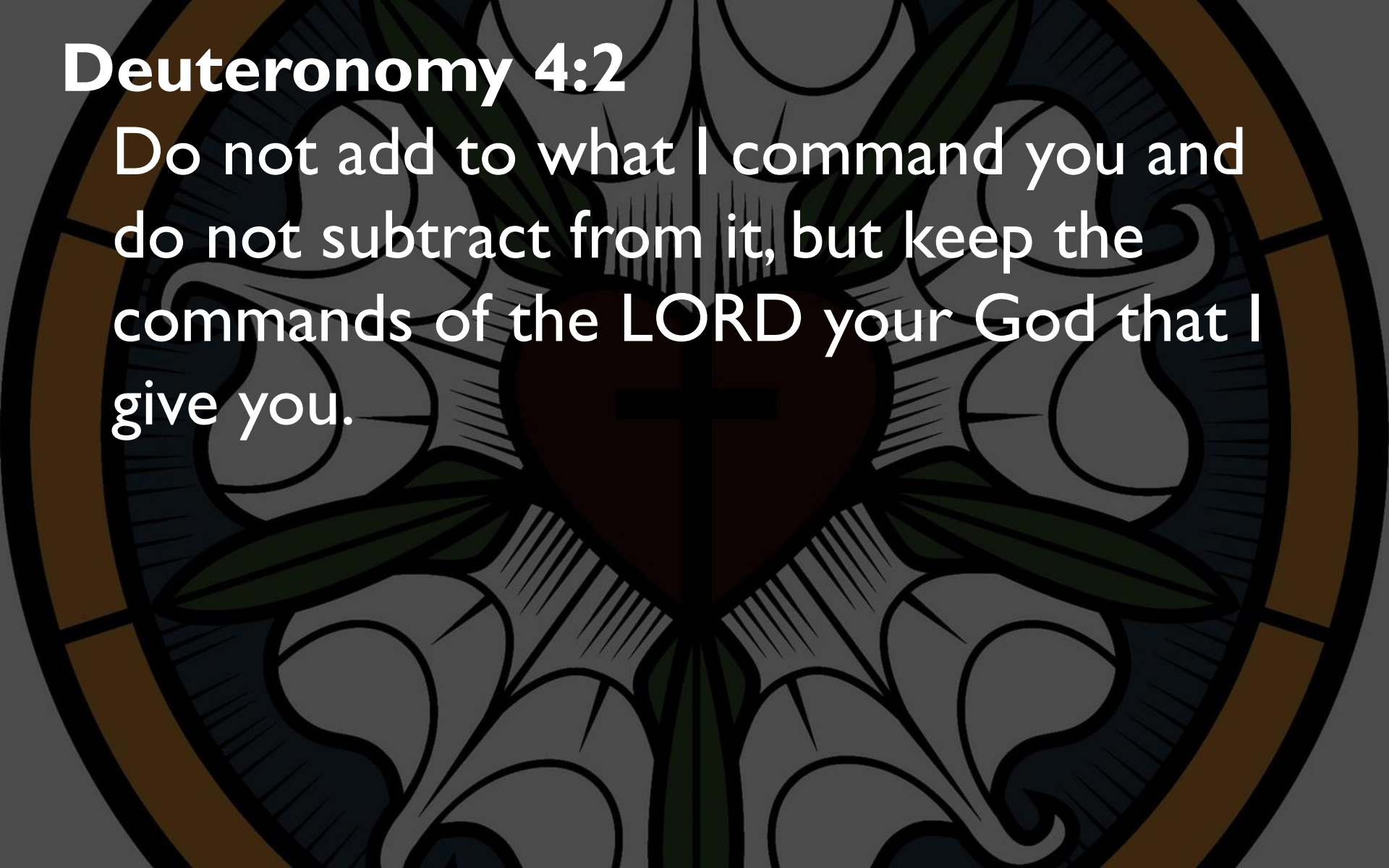
**We believe the Bible
is verbally inspired.**

Romans 15:4

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Deuteronomy 4:2

Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you.

The background is a circular stained glass design. It features a central dark red heart shape. Surrounding the heart are intricate floral and leaf patterns in shades of green and brown. The entire design is set against a dark grey background with a subtle grid pattern.

Revelation 22:18–19


I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

Matthew 4:4, 7, 10

Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”

A circular stained glass window with a central floral motif in shades of green and brown, surrounded by intricate leaded glass patterns in dark blue and brown. The text is overlaid in the center.

**We believe the Bible
speaks with
divine authority.**



John 17:17

“Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.”

Psalm 119:160

All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal.

The background is a circular stained glass design. It features a central dark red heart shape. Surrounding the heart are intricate floral and leaf patterns in shades of green and grey, all set against a dark blue-grey background. The entire design is enclosed within a circular border with a brownish-gold hue.

**We believe the Bible is
without error (inerrant).**



Psalm 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Isaiah 8:20

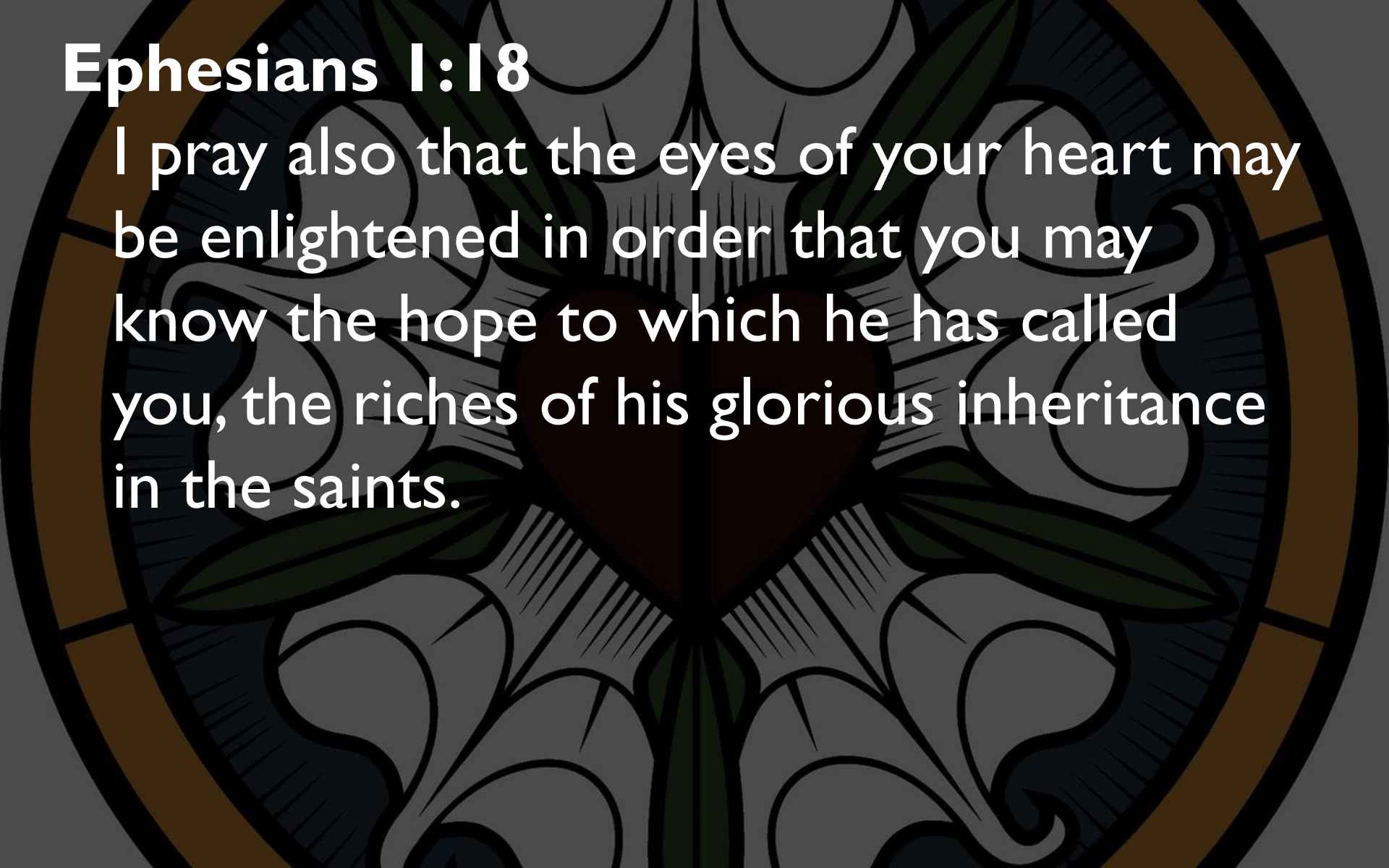
To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn.

Ephesians 2:19–21

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.

Ephesians 1:18

I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints.

The background is a circular stained glass window. In the center is a dark red heart. The heart is surrounded by green leaves and stems, all rendered in a stylized, outlined manner. The background of the window is a mix of grey and brown tones, with some areas having fine lines or hatching. The overall style is reminiscent of traditional stained glass art.

2 Peter 3:16

He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

The background is a circular stained glass design. It features a central dark red heart with a yellow outline. The heart is surrounded by green leaves and stems, all rendered in a stylized, outlined manner. The entire design is set against a dark grey background with a brown border. The text is overlaid on the heart and the surrounding floral elements.

**We believe the Bible
is clear.**

1 Corinthians 2:14

The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Romans 8:7

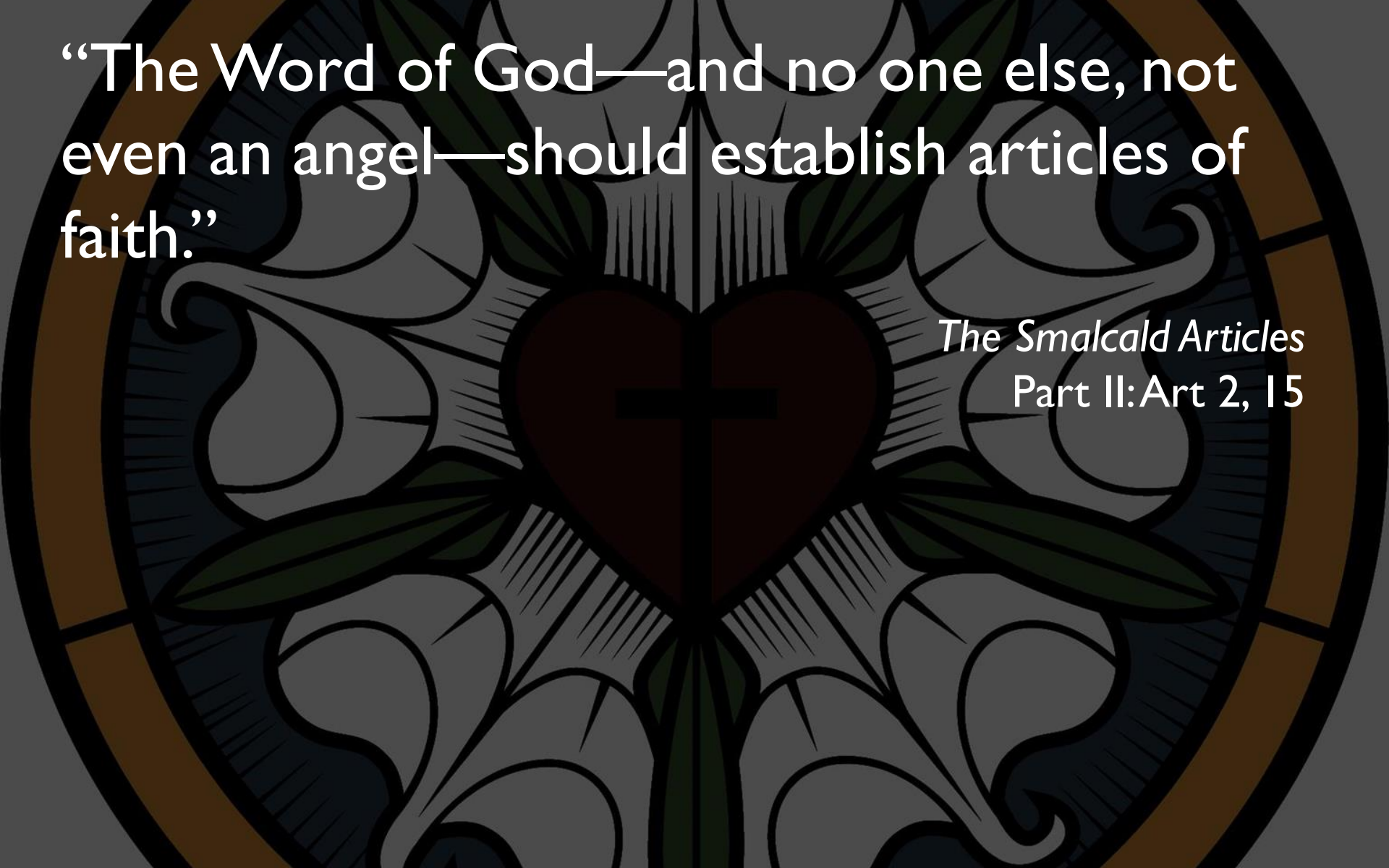
The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.

2 Corinthians 10:5

We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

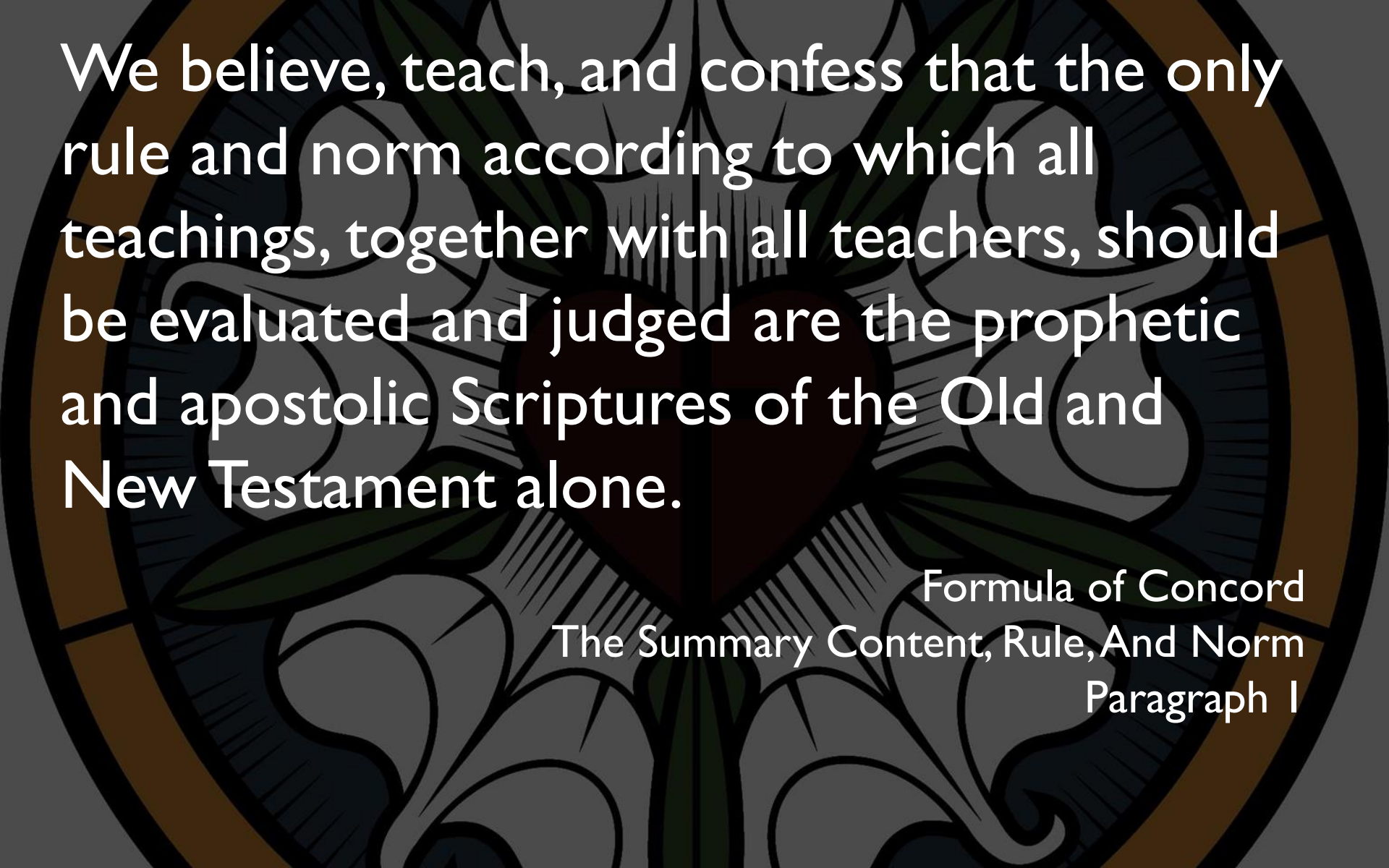
A circular stained glass window with a central heart-shaped motif. The heart is dark red and surrounded by green leaves and blue-grey scrollwork. The entire design is set within a circular frame with a brown border.

**We believe the Bible
rules over human reason.**

A circular stained glass window with a central heart and floral patterns. The heart is dark red and is surrounded by a sunburst of rays. The background is a mix of dark blue, green, and brown tones with intricate floral and scrollwork designs.

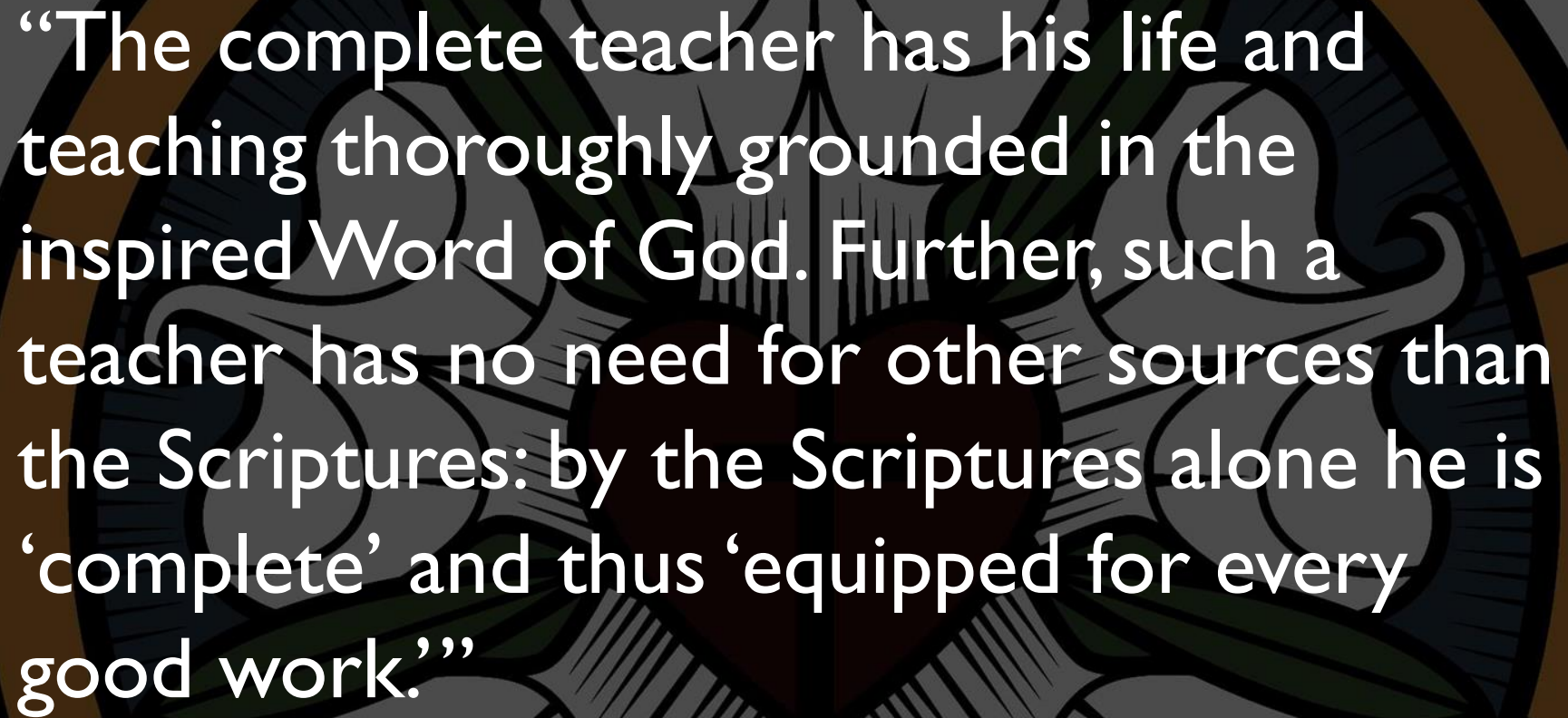
“The Word of God—and no one else, not even an angel—should establish articles of faith.”

The Smalcald Articles
Part II: Art 2, 15

A circular stained-glass window with a central heart and floral patterns. The heart is dark red and surrounded by green leaves and blue and brown floral designs. The background is a mix of grey and brown tones.

We believe, teach, and confess that the only rule and norm according to which all teachings, together with all teachers, should be evaluated and judged are the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures of the Old and New Testament alone.

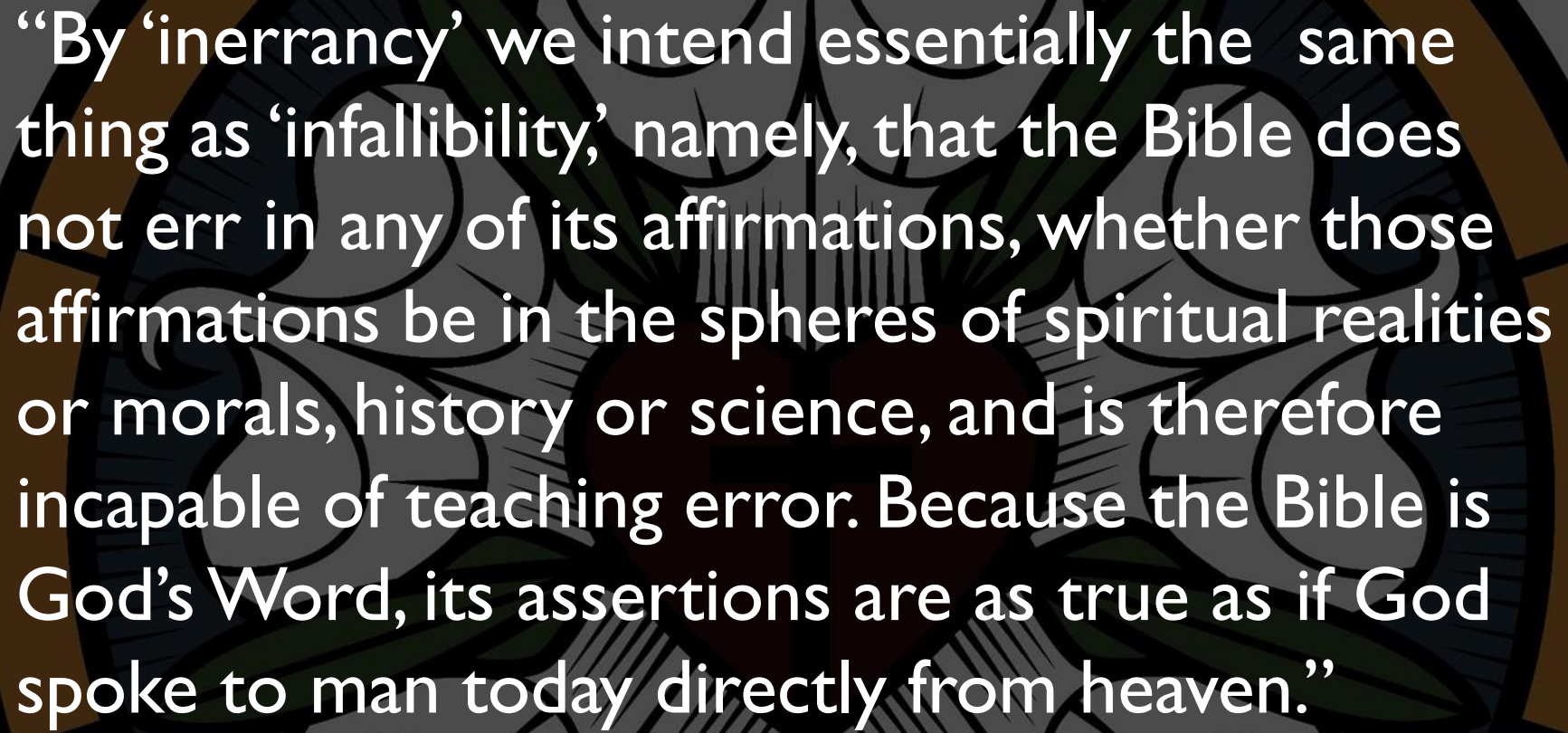
Formula of Concord
The Summary Content, Rule, And Norm
Paragraph 1

A circular stained-glass window with a central heart and floral patterns. The heart is dark red, and the surrounding patterns are in shades of green, blue, and brown. The window is set against a dark background.

“The complete teacher has his life and teaching thoroughly grounded in the inspired Word of God. Further, such a teacher has no need for other sources than the Scriptures: by the Scriptures alone he is ‘complete’ and thus ‘equipped for every good work.’”

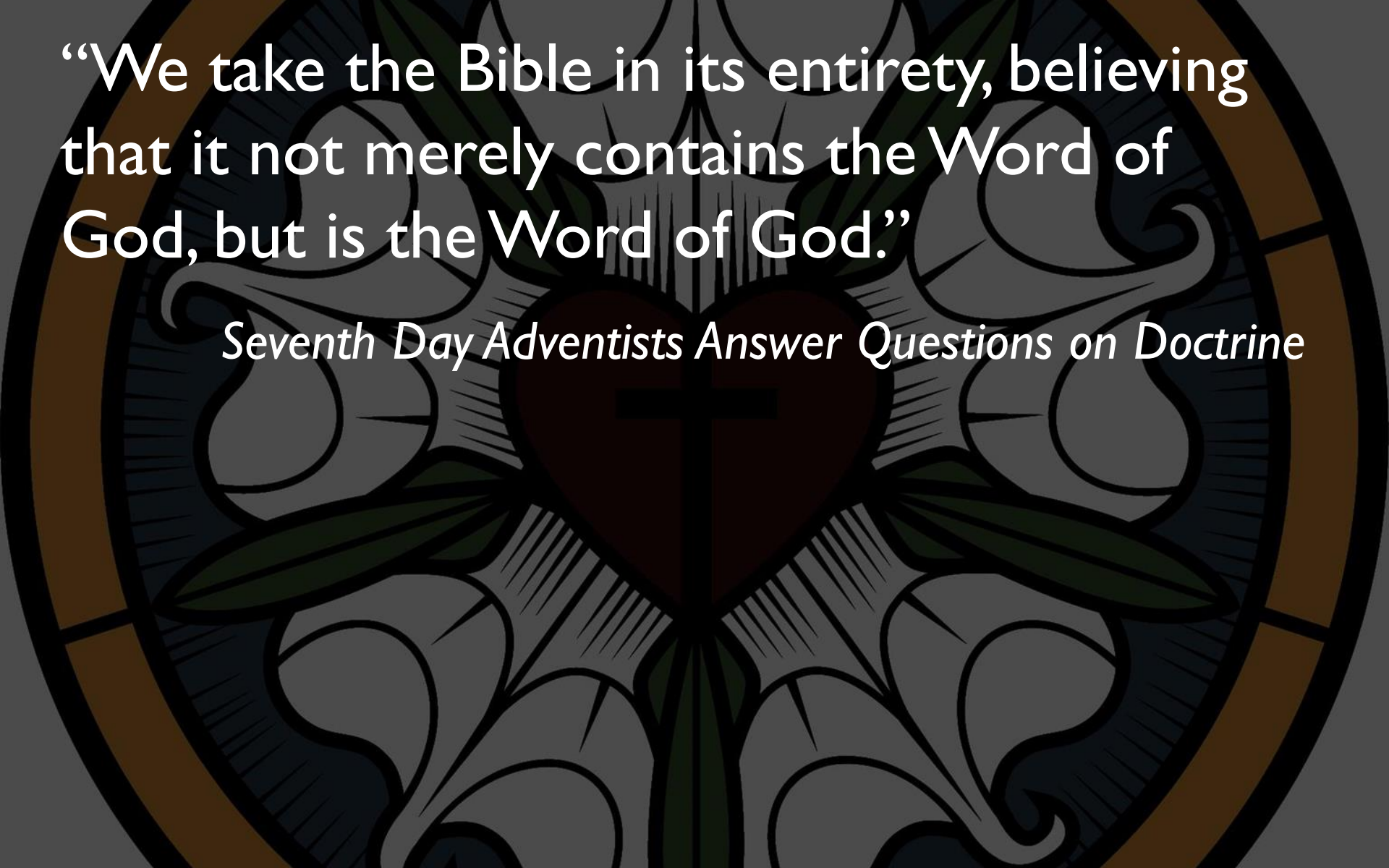
J. Rodman Williams

Renewal Theology: Systematic Theology from a Charismatic Perspective



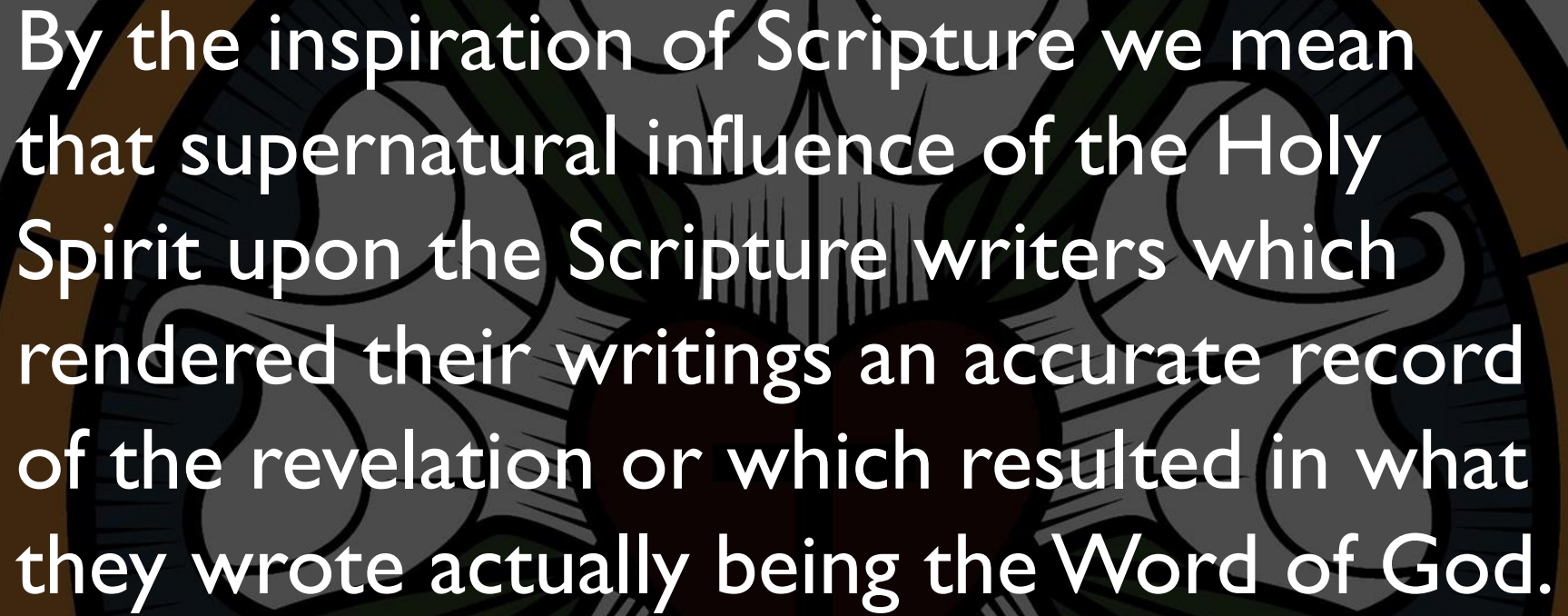
“By ‘inerrancy’ we intend essentially the same thing as ‘infallibility,’ namely, that the Bible does not err in any of its affirmations, whether those affirmations be in the spheres of spiritual realities or morals, history or science, and is therefore incapable of teaching error. Because the Bible is God’s Word, its assertions are as true as if God spoke to man today directly from heaven.”

R. Reymond
Systematic Theology
(Reformed)

The background is a circular stained glass design. At the center is a dark red heart. Surrounding the heart are intricate floral and scrollwork patterns in shades of green, grey, and brown. The entire design is set against a dark grey background.

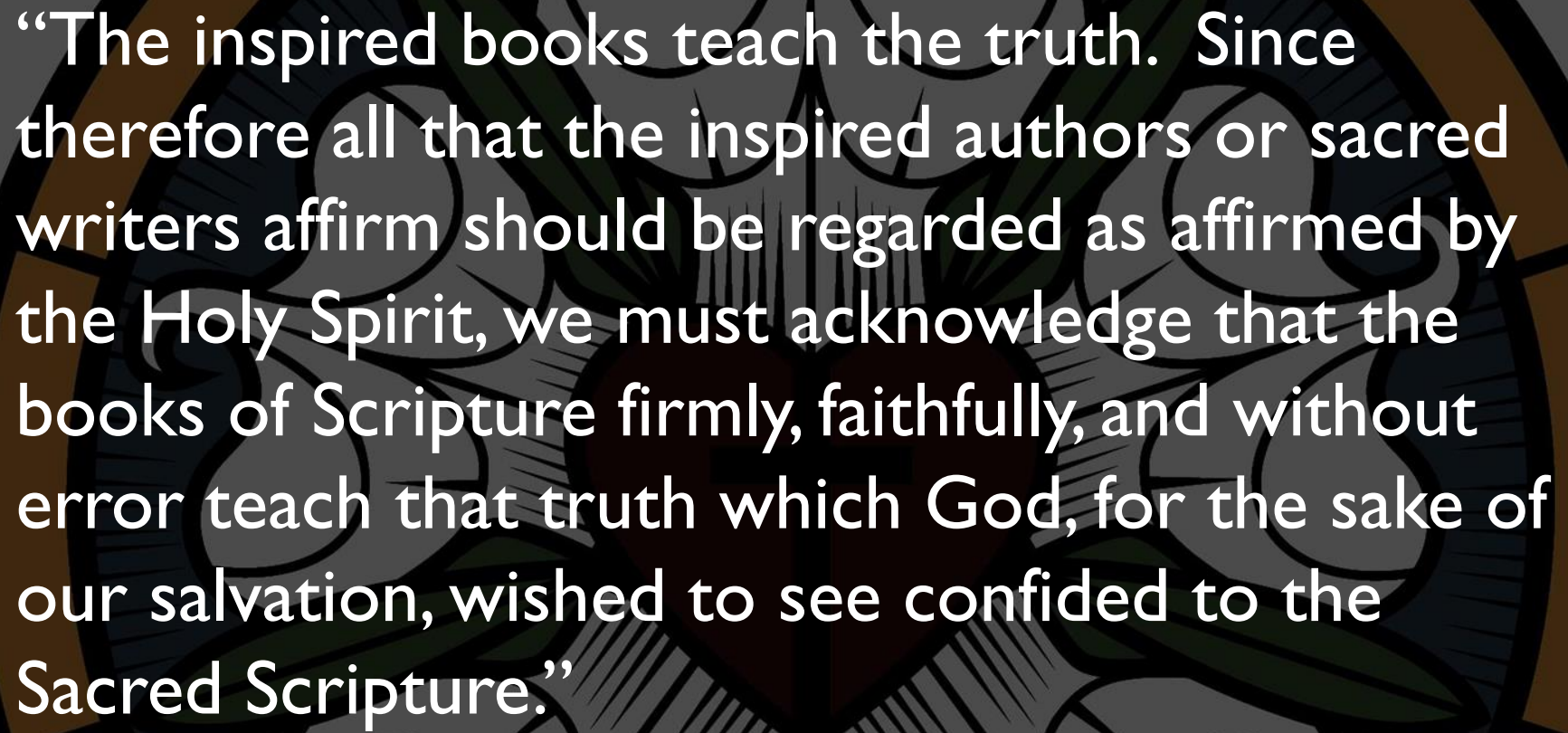
“We take the Bible in its entirety, believing that it not merely contains the Word of God, but is the Word of God.”

Seventh Day Adventists Answer Questions on Doctrine

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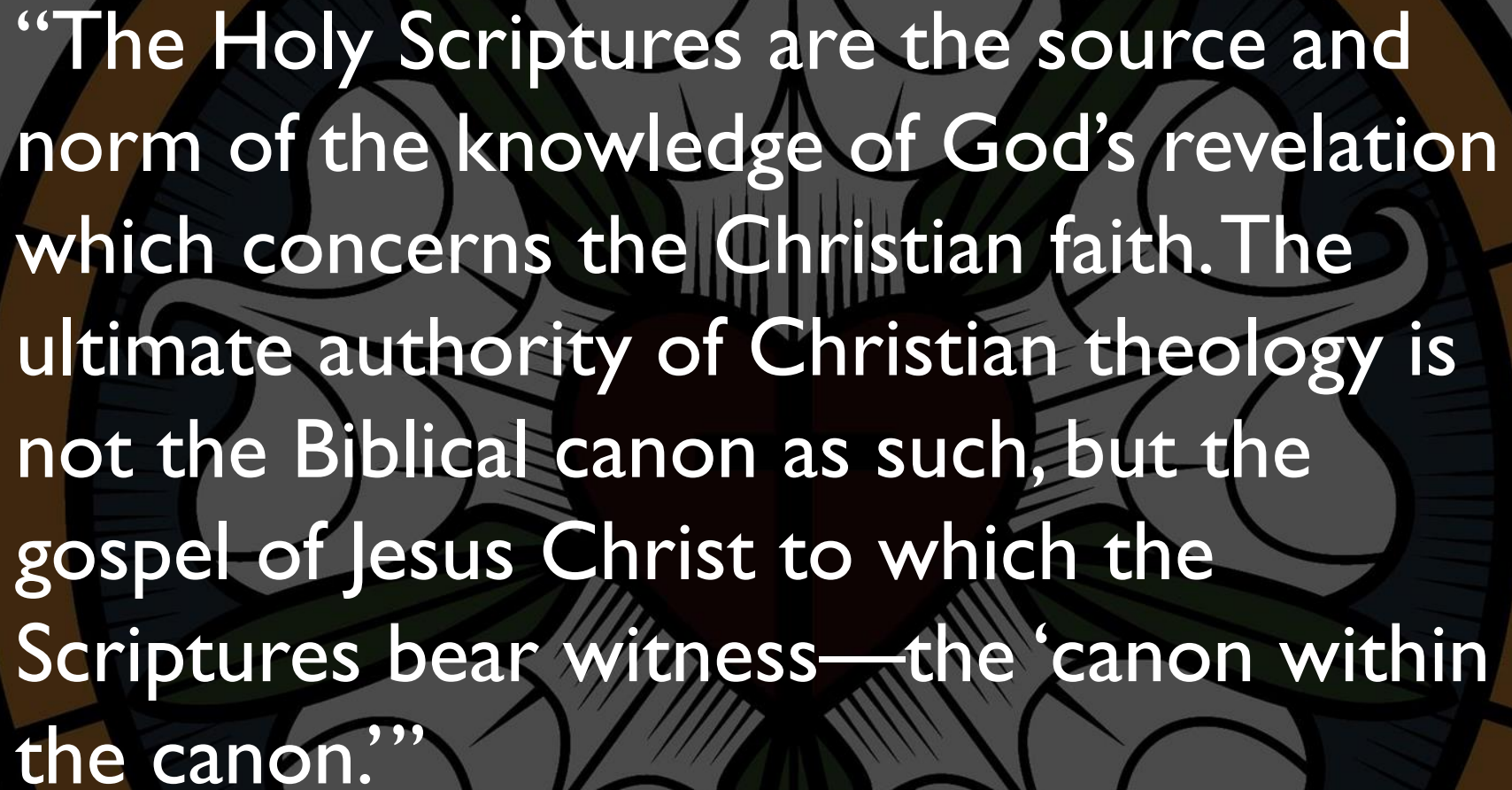
By the inspiration of Scripture we mean that supernatural influence of the Holy Spirit upon the Scripture writers which rendered their writings an accurate record of the revelation or which resulted in what they wrote actually being the Word of God.

Millard Erickson
Introducing Christian Doctrine
(Baptist)



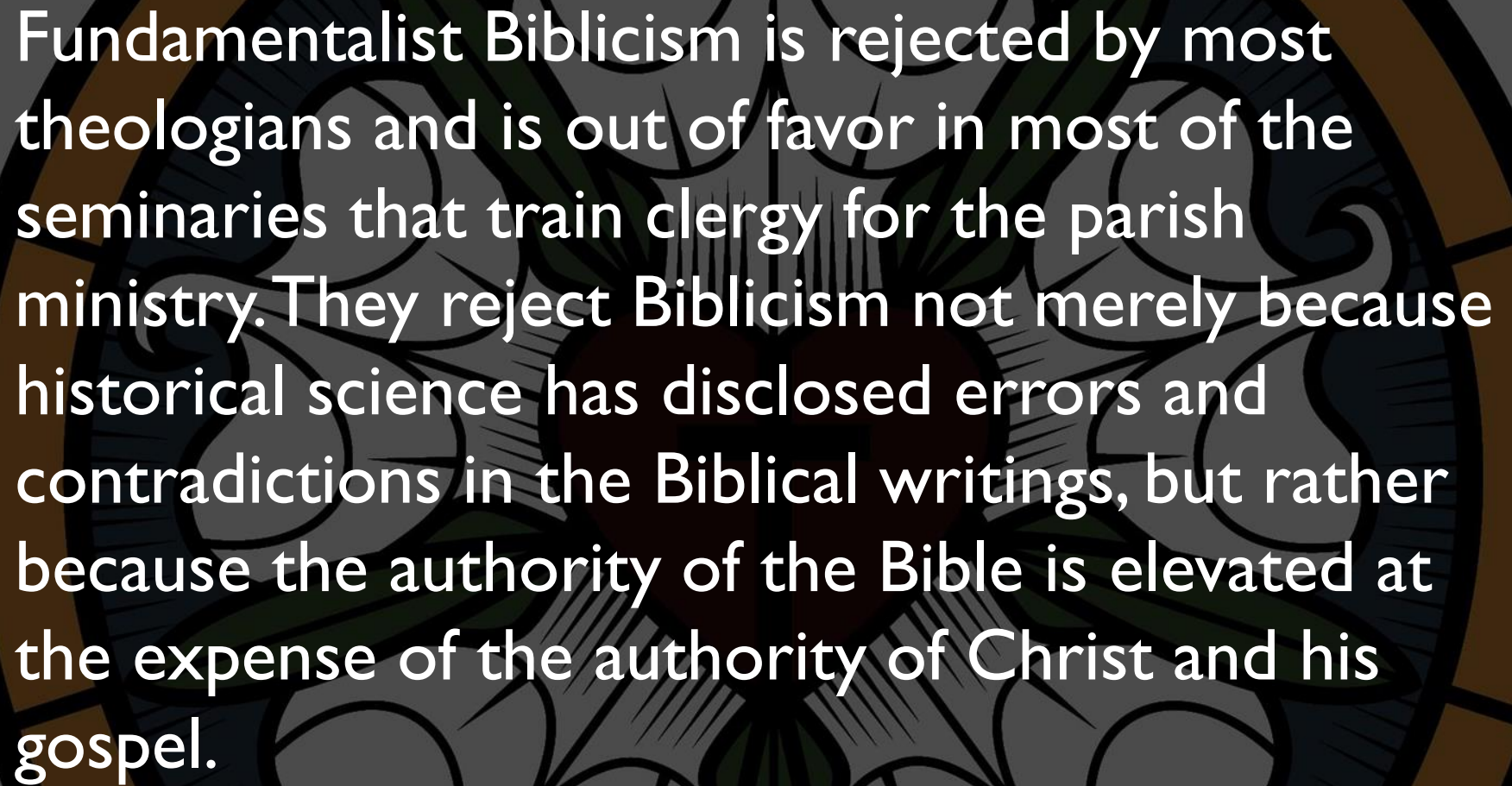
“The inspired books teach the truth. Since therefore all that the inspired authors or sacred writers affirm should be regarded as affirmed by the Holy Spirit, we must acknowledge that the books of Scripture firmly, faithfully, and without error teach that truth which God, for the sake of our salvation, wished to see confided to the Sacred Scripture.”

Catechism of the Catholic Church
Paragraph 107



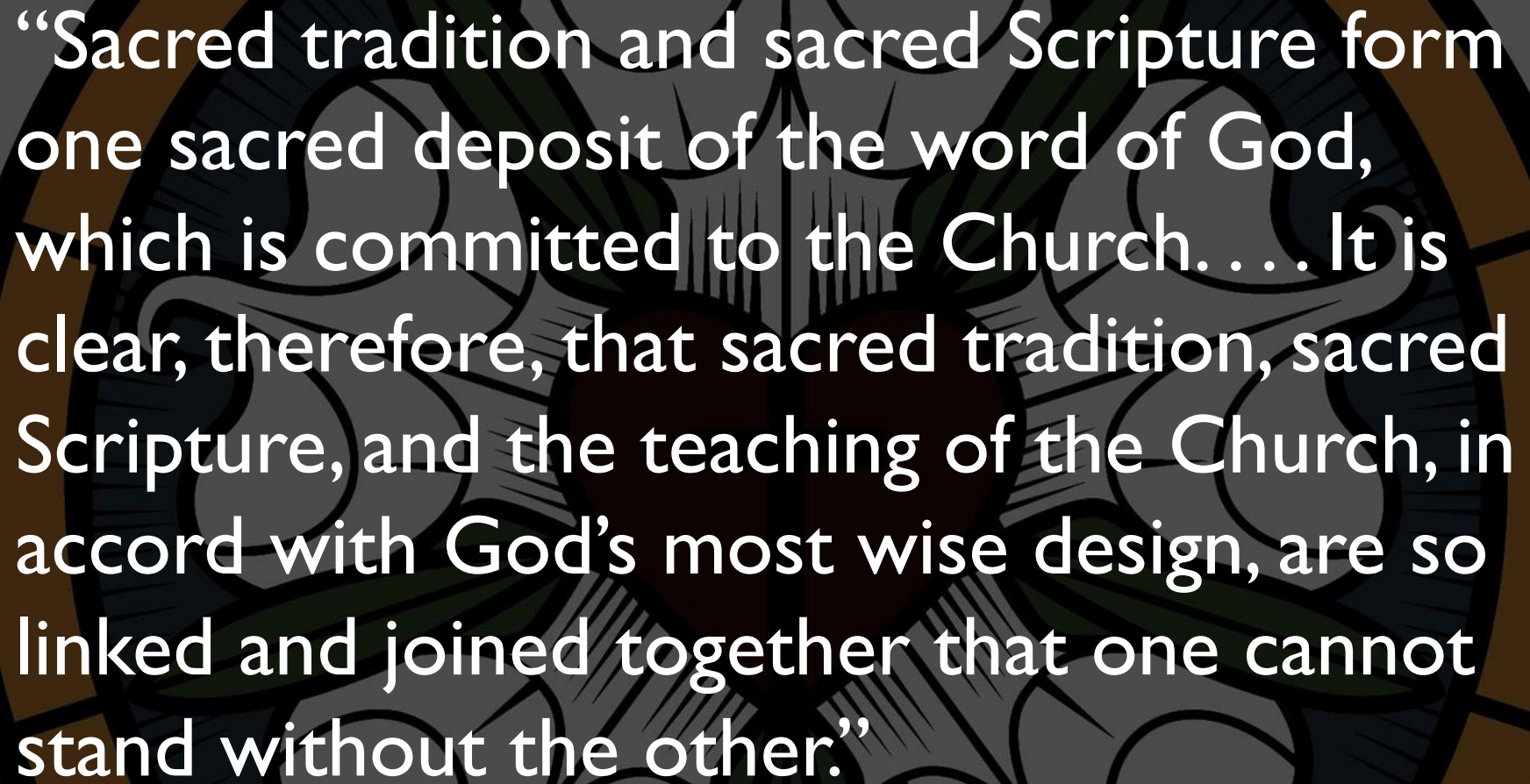
“The Holy Scriptures are the source and norm of the knowledge of God’s revelation which concerns the Christian faith. The ultimate authority of Christian theology is not the Biblical canon as such, but the gospel of Jesus Christ to which the Scriptures bear witness—the ‘canon within the canon.’”

Systematic Theology, Vol. I
Bratten and Jensen
(non-confessional Lutheran)

The background of the slide is a circular stained glass window. It features a central sunburst or starburst design with radiating lines. The colors are primarily dark blues, greys, and browns, with some lighter areas. The overall style is traditional and ornate.

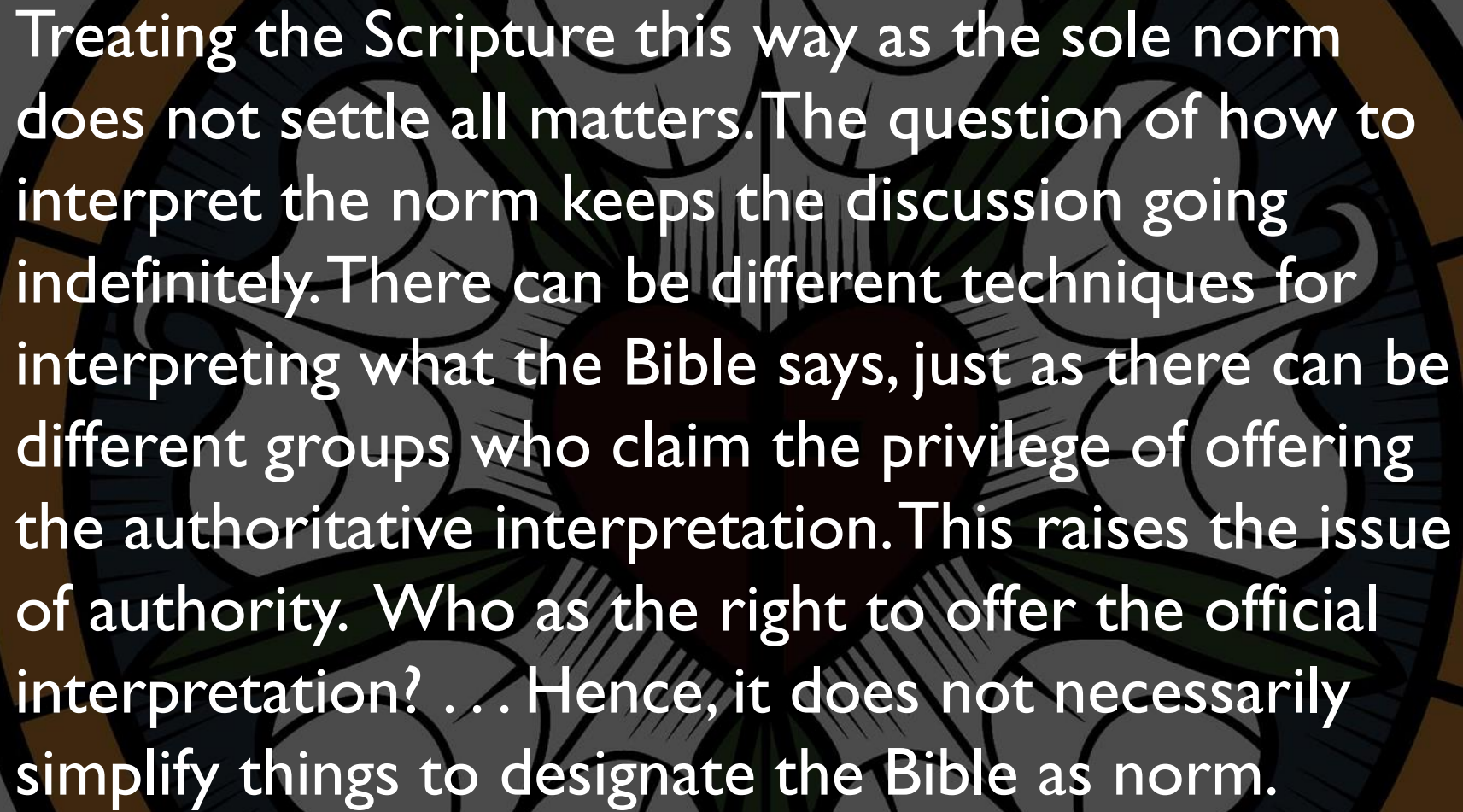
Fundamentalist Biblicism is rejected by most theologians and is out of favor in most of the seminaries that train clergy for the parish ministry. They reject Biblicism not merely because historical science has disclosed errors and contradictions in the Biblical writings, but rather because the authority of the Bible is elevated at the expense of the authority of Christ and his gospel.

Systematic Theology, Vol. I
Bratten and Jensen
(non-confessional Lutheran)



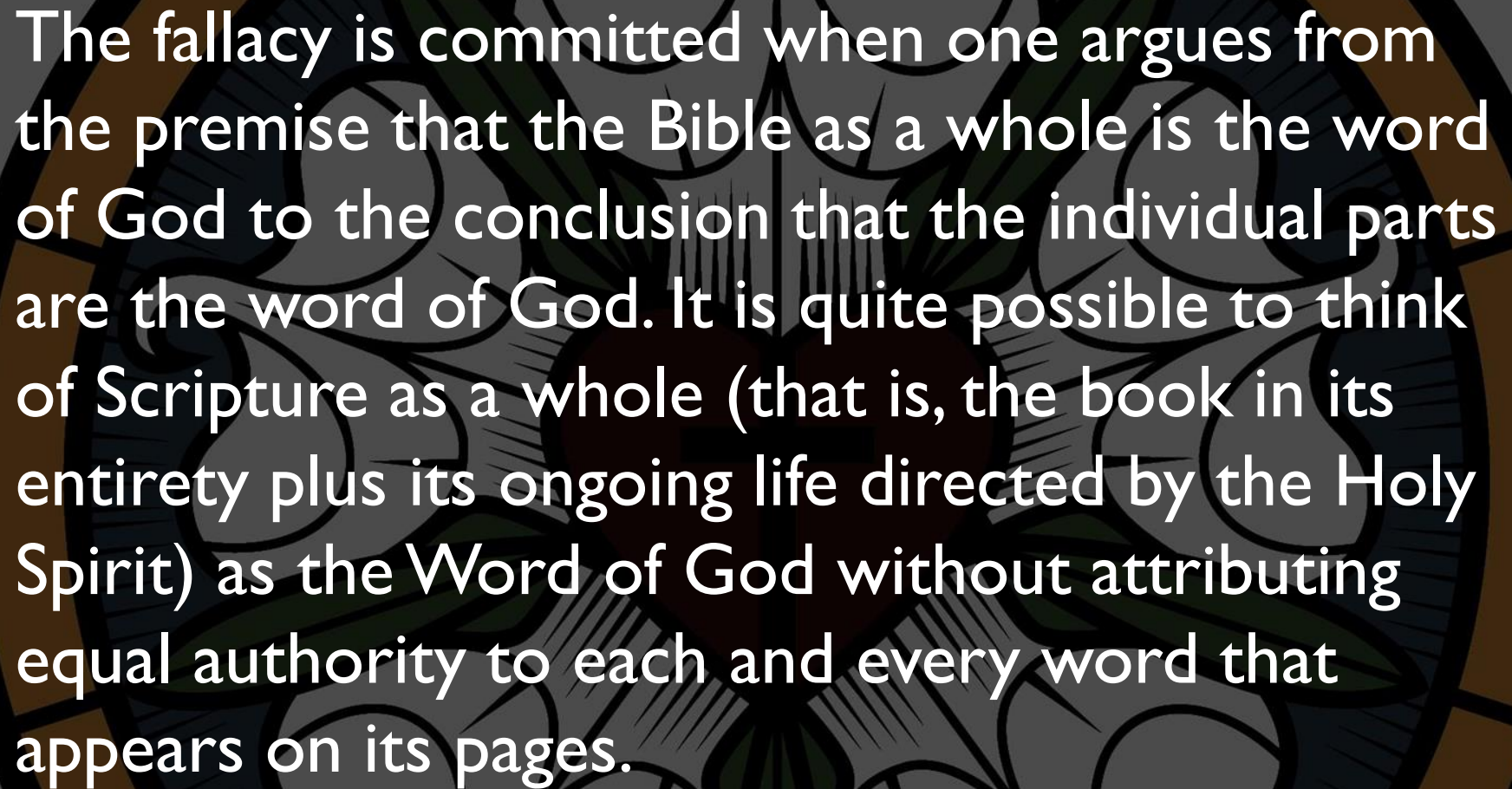
“Sacred tradition and sacred Scripture form one sacred deposit of the word of God, which is committed to the Church... It is clear, therefore, that sacred tradition, sacred Scripture, and the teaching of the Church, in accord with God’s most wise design, are so linked and joined together that one cannot stand without the other.”

Vatican II



Treating the Scripture this way as the sole norm does not settle all matters. The question of how to interpret the norm keeps the discussion going indefinitely. There can be different techniques for interpreting what the Bible says, just as there can be different groups who claim the privilege of offering the authoritative interpretation. This raises the issue of authority. Who has the right to offer the official interpretation? ... Hence, it does not necessarily simplify things to designate the Bible as norm.

Ted Peters
(Non-Confessional Lutheran)

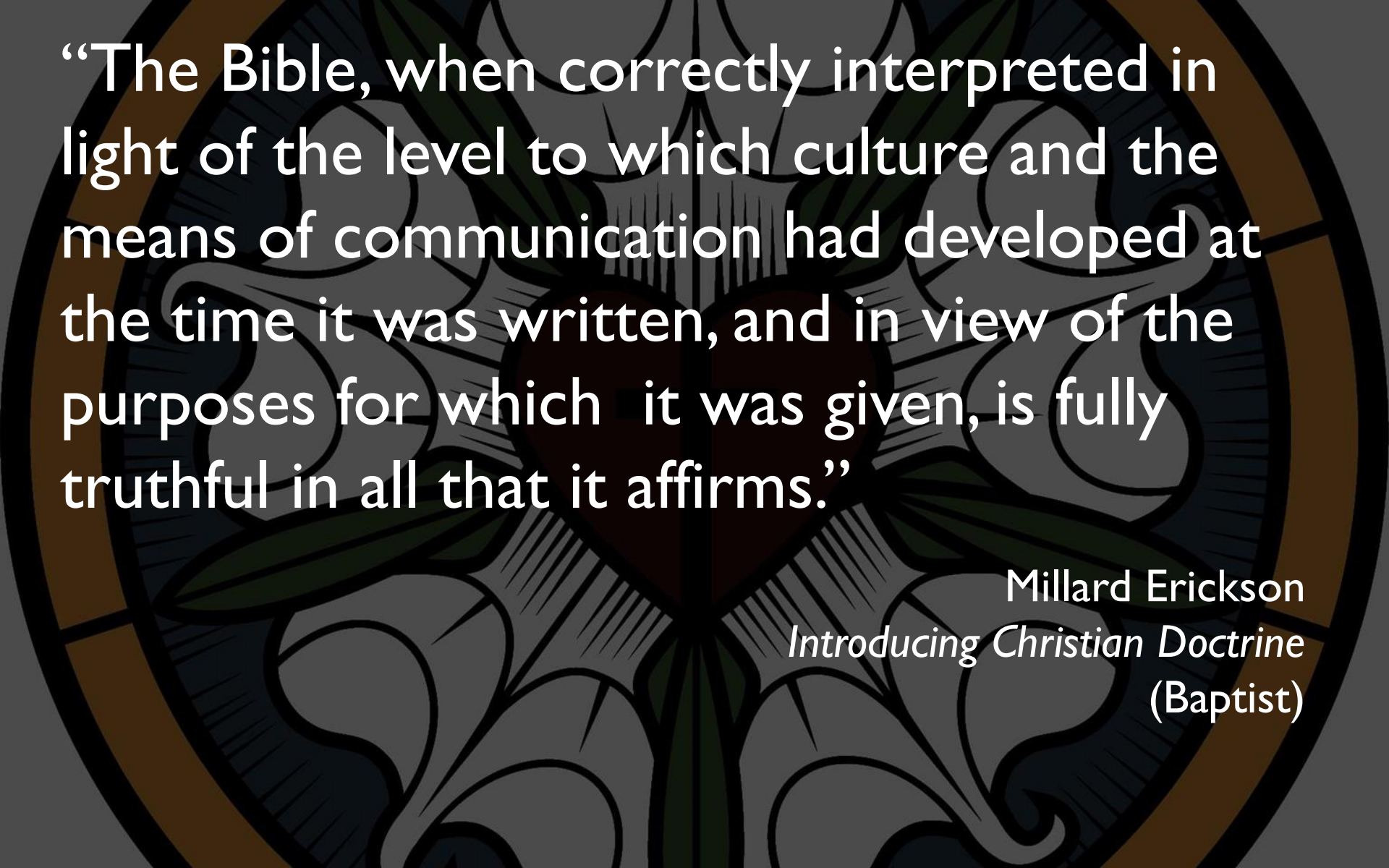


The fallacy is committed when one argues from the premise that the Bible as a whole is the word of God to the conclusion that the individual parts are the word of God. It is quite possible to think of Scripture as a whole (that is, the book in its entirety plus its ongoing life directed by the Holy Spirit) as the Word of God without attributing equal authority to each and every word that appears on its pages.

God, the World's Future

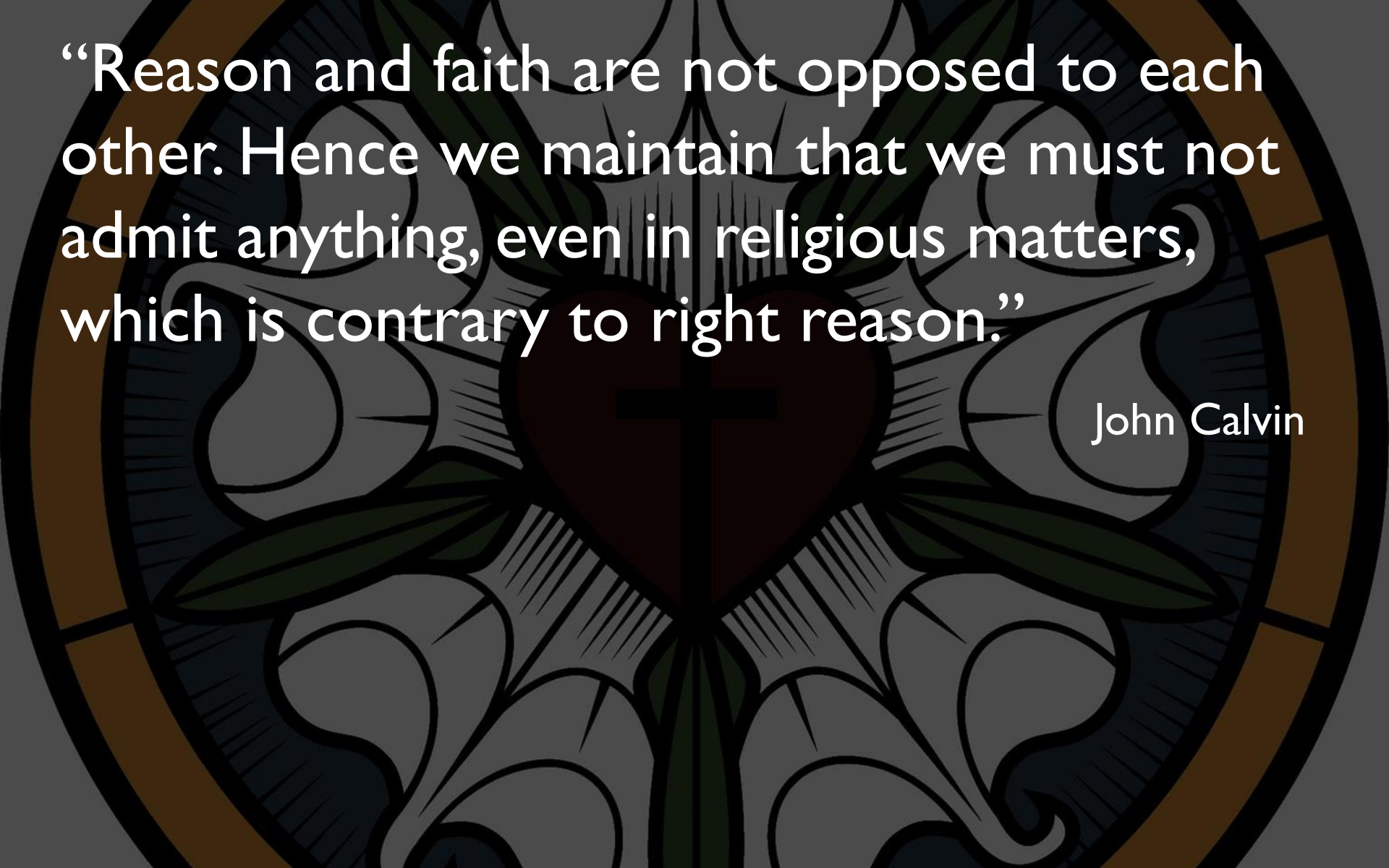
Ted Peters

(Non-confessional Lutheran)



“The Bible, when correctly interpreted in light of the level to which culture and the means of communication had developed at the time it was written, and in view of the purposes for which it was given, is fully truthful in all that it affirms.”

Millard Erickson
Introducing Christian Doctrine
(Baptist)

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“Reason and faith are not opposed to each other. Hence we maintain that we must not admit anything, even in religious matters, which is contrary to right reason.”

John Calvin



King of Kings Lutheran Church
Garden Grove, California
November 9, 2014

