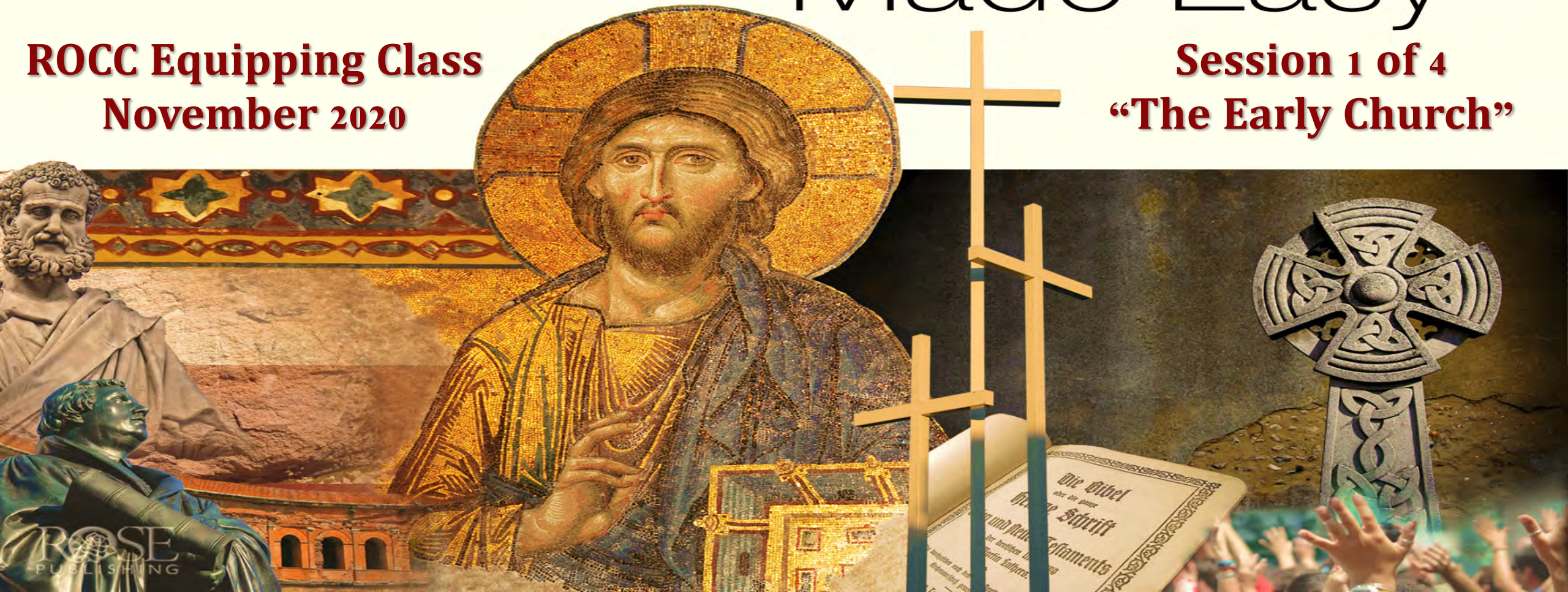
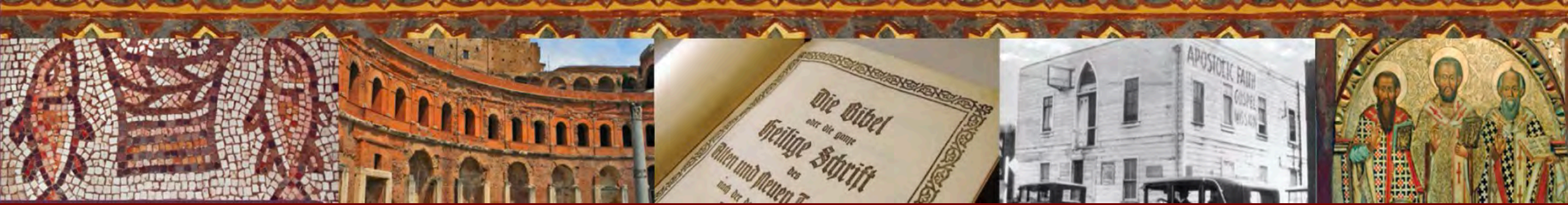


Christian History Made Easy

ROCC Equipping Class
November 2020

Session 1 of 4
“The Early Church”

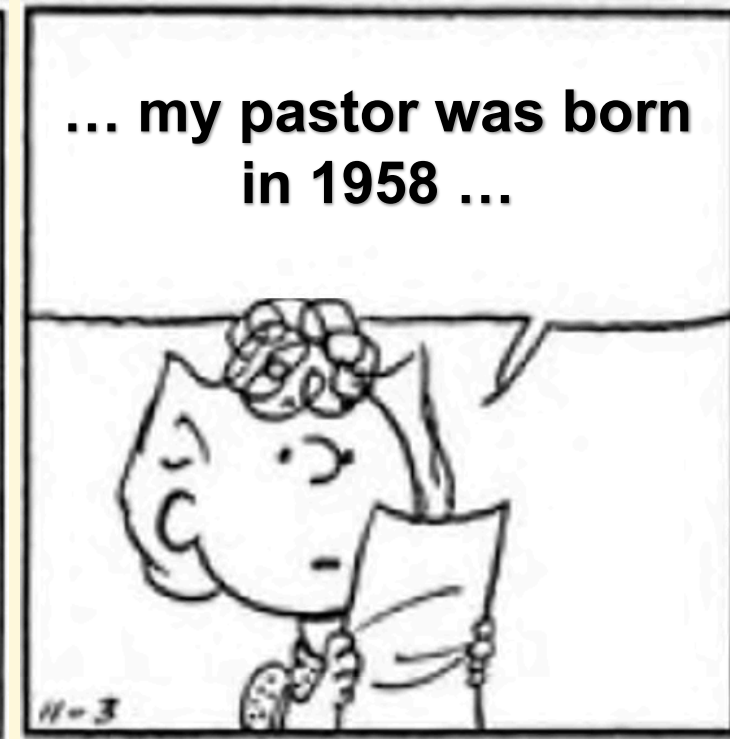
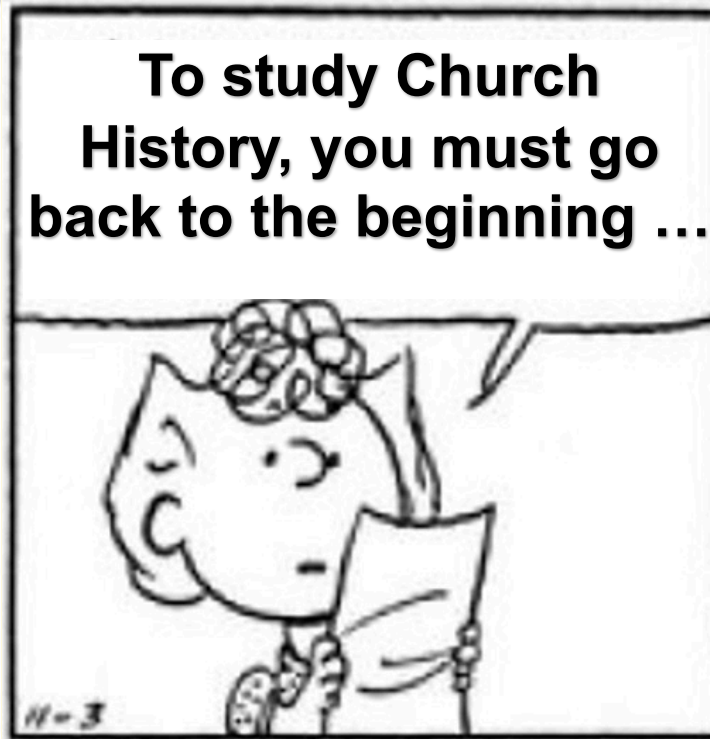




Christian (Church) History

Why Are You In This Class?
One Christian History Question?





Why Should History Matter to Me?

- **Because the Gospel Matters**

- God has entered history (John 1:14)

- **Because God's Word Matters**

- Church history helps us read, interpret, and apply the Bible to our lives (Hebrews 12)
- *“Two heads are better than one, not because either is infallible, but because they are unlikely to both go wrong in the same direction.”*

- C.S. Lewis

Why Should History Matter to Me?

- **Because God's Work Matters**

- **God's Kingdom advances in history.**
- **Misconception that how God works through us is the only way God has worked through his Church.**
- **God's work is bigger than anyone of us: Athanasius, Augustine, Wycliffe, Katie Luther, Suzannah Wesley ... All are very different, but of One Faith, One Gospel.**

An Invitation

- **To discover** the story of God's work: How the Gospel spread from a small Jewish sect, to Clemmons, NC.
- **To Share** in Gospel heritage and link arms with Christian family.

Our Equipping Class Approach

- **Big Picture (500-year Windows)**
- ***How We Got Here***
- **Decisive (“Ah-Ha”) Moments**
- **Understanding Historical Actions,
Not Judging / Defending**
- **Emphasis on “So What?”**

Christian History

The Gospels & Apostles → River Oaks
How Did We Get Here?

- Session 1 - The Early Church (1 Branch)***
- Session 2 - The Middle Ages (2 Branches)***
- Session 3 - The Reformation (3 Branches)***
- Session 4 - The Modern Church (+ Denominations)***

Christian History

The Early Church: Bible, Bishops, & Creeds

Session One - November 1, 2020



Christians – A Jewish Sect (AD 40 – AD 63)

Session

1

- From other's perspective, Paul and all believers in Jesus were part of a new Jewish sect; a “type” of Judaism.

And when they had brought them (Paul and Silas) to the magistrates, they said, “These men are of the Jews, and they are disturbing our city. (Acts 16:20)

Christians – A Jewish Sect (AD 40 – AD 63)

Session

1

- In AD 49, Emperor Claudius expelled from Rome all persons practicing Jewish religion, including, “Believers in Jesus.”

He found a Jew named Aquila, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all Jews to leave Rome. (Acts 18:2)



Christians – A Jewish Sect (AD 40 – AD 63)

Session

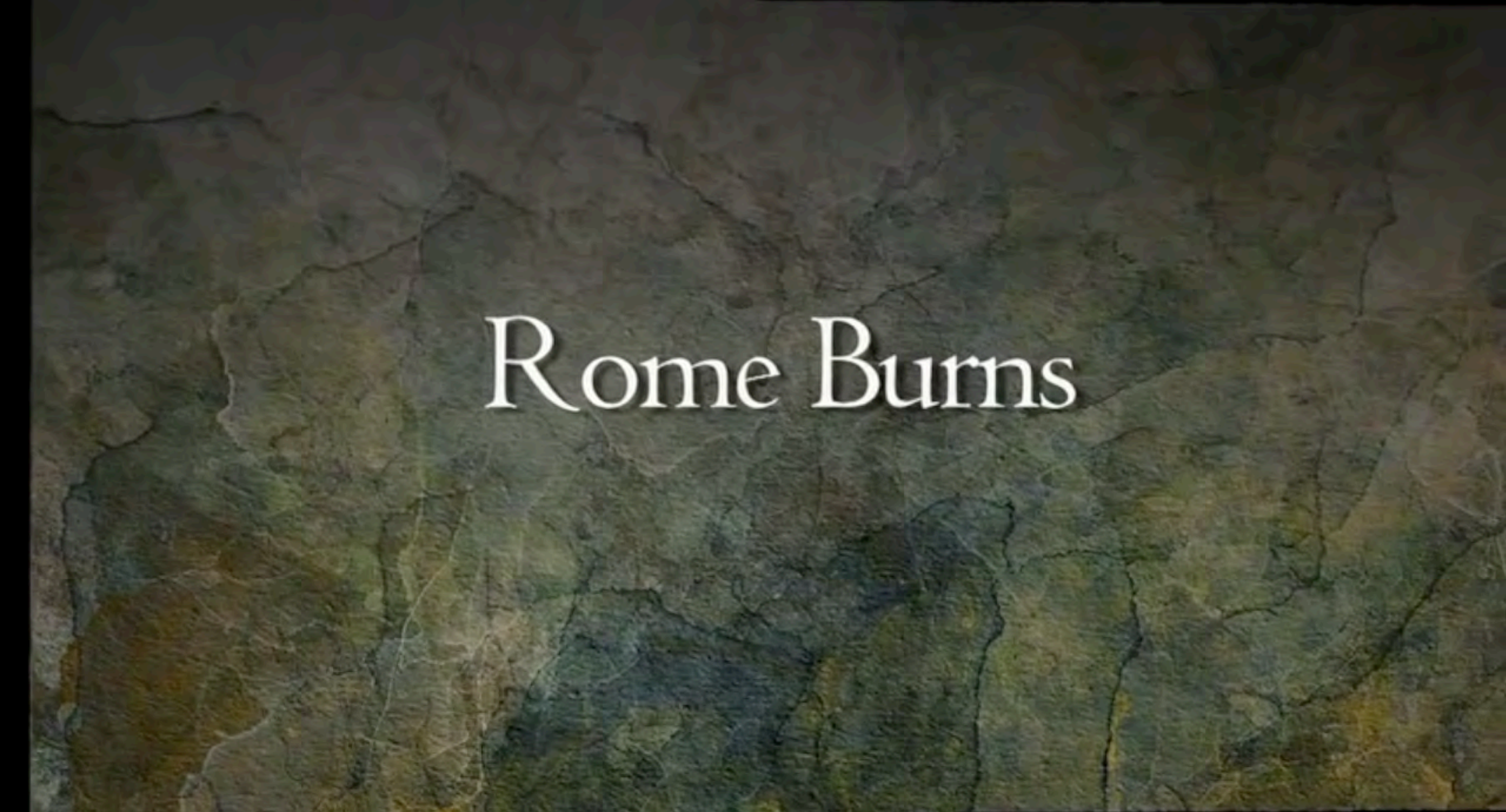
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- In AD 54, Emperor Claudius dies and Jews, including “Believers in Jesus,” could return.
- Nero becomes Emperor (AD 54 – 68)
- Paul arrives in Rome AD 60 and is imprisoned (Acts 28); from Rome he writes Prison Epistles

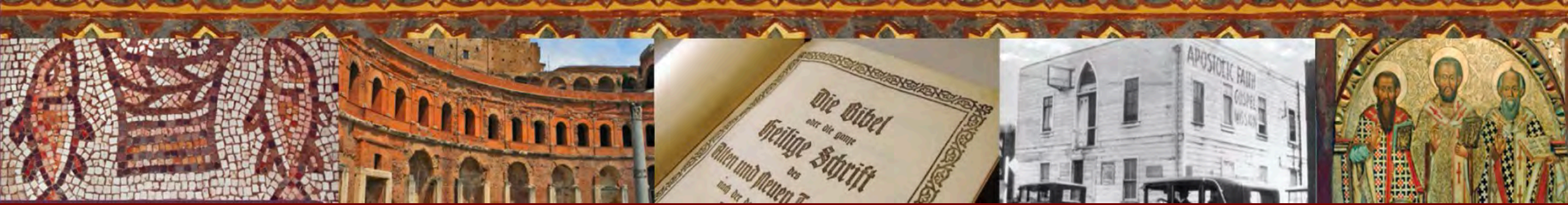


Two Tragic Events (#1) Rome Burns – AD 64

Session
1

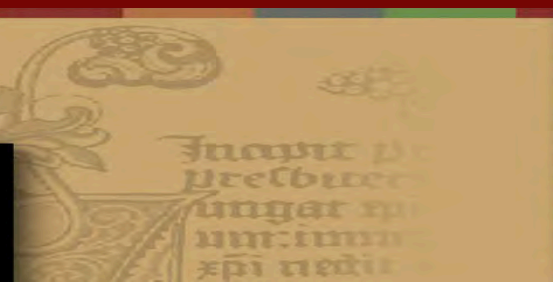


Rome Burns



Rome Burns - AD 64

Why Is This a Decisive Moment?
What Do Think Impact Will Be?



Two Tragic Events (#1) Rome Burns – AD 64

Session

1

Impact of Rome Fire on Early Church

- **Suspicion and Persecution**
- **Apostolic Martyrs (Paul & Peter)**
- **Greater Distinction in Eyes of Romans**
- **Identification as “Atheists”**
- **Evidence of Faith – Loyalty Unto Death**

Two Tragic Events (AD 64 – 70)

Session

1

Tension Builds

- **Nero Appoints Flores (AD 64)**
- **Jewish Rebels – Masada**

Two Tragic Events (AD 64 – 70)

Session 1



Masada – Herod's Fortress

Two Tragic Events (AD 64 – 70)

Session 1

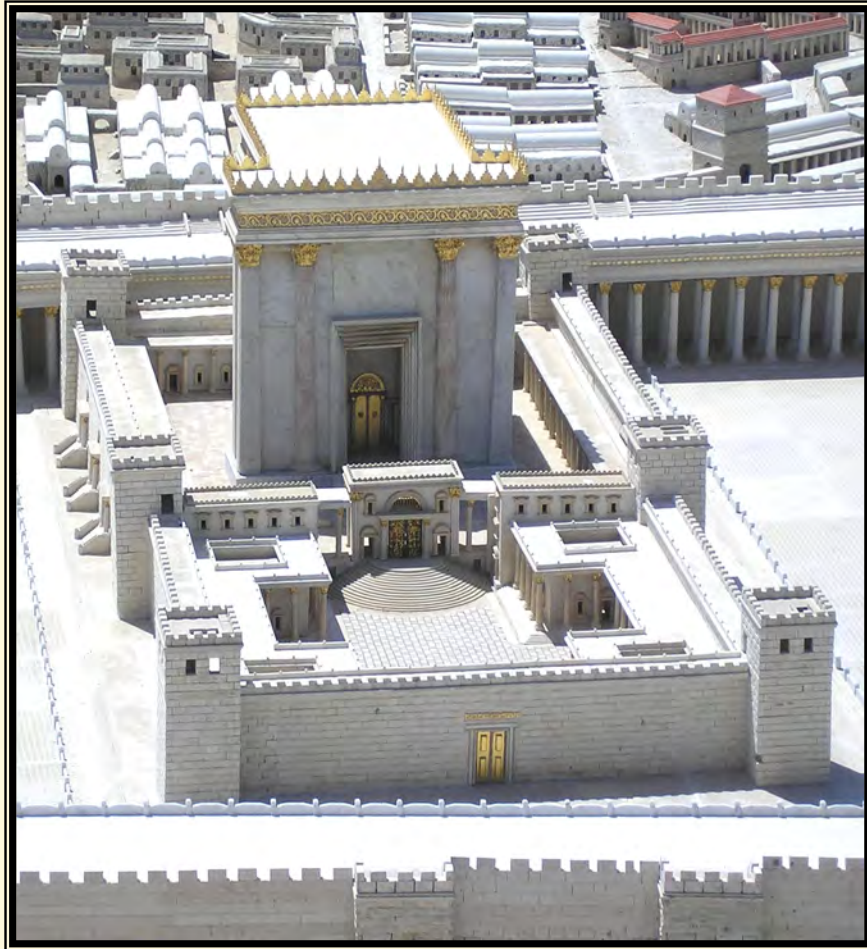
Tension Builds

- Nero Appoints Flores (AD 64)
- Jewish Rebels – Masada
- Titus Conquers Jerusalem



Two Tragic Events (#2) Jerusalem Falls – AD 70

Session 1



Model of Jerusalem Temple, pre-AD



Remains of Walls Around Temple Mount

Two Tragic Events (#2) Jerusalem Falls – AD 70

Session
1



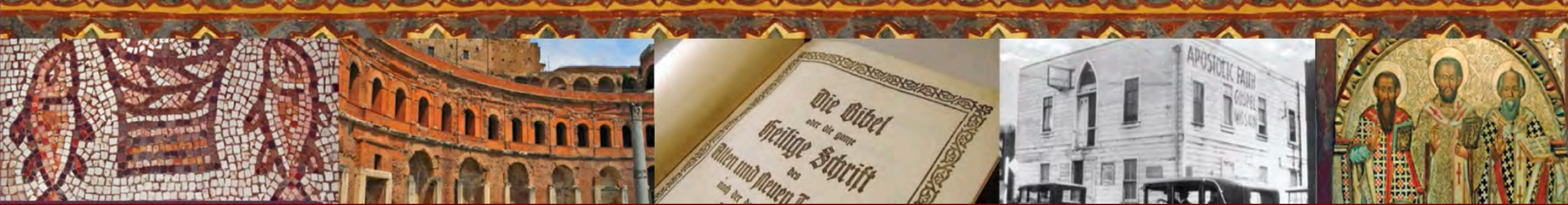
***The Arch of
Titus in Rome***

Two Tragic Events (#2) Jerusalem Falls – AD 70

Session
1



The Arch of Titus



Jerusalem Falls- AD 70

Why Is This a Decisive Moment?
What Do Think the Impact Will Be?



Two Tragic Events (#2) Jerusalem Falls – AD 70

Session

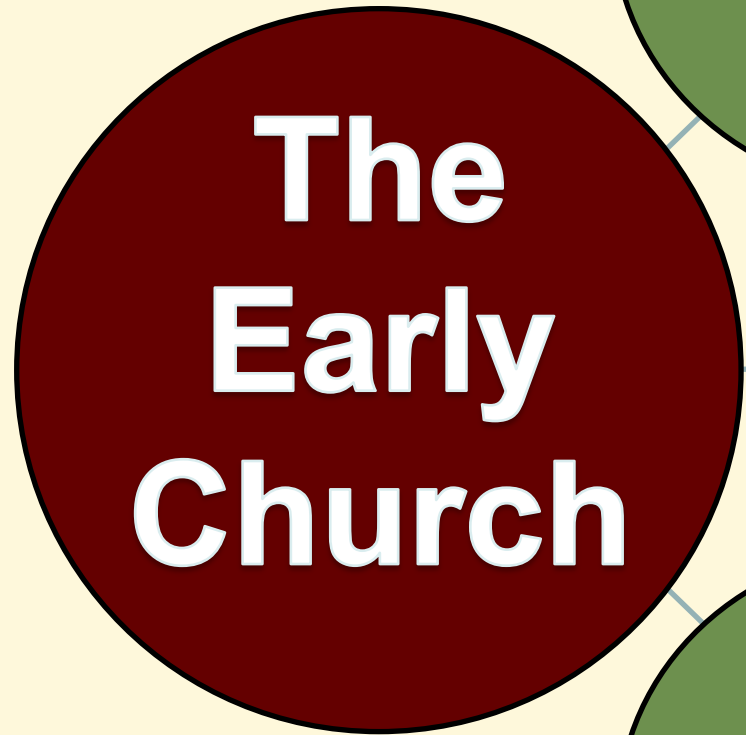
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Impact of Jerusalem Destruction on the Early Church

- **Disconnect from Sacrifices & Worship**
- **Forced Christianity Outward – A “New Center” vs. a “Shared Center.”**
- **Distinct in the Eyes of Jews and Romans**
- **A New Framework of Organization**

AD 70 to AD 312

Session 1



Bishops

- **Structure / Hierarchy**
- **Guard Against Heresy**
- **Teach, Baptize**

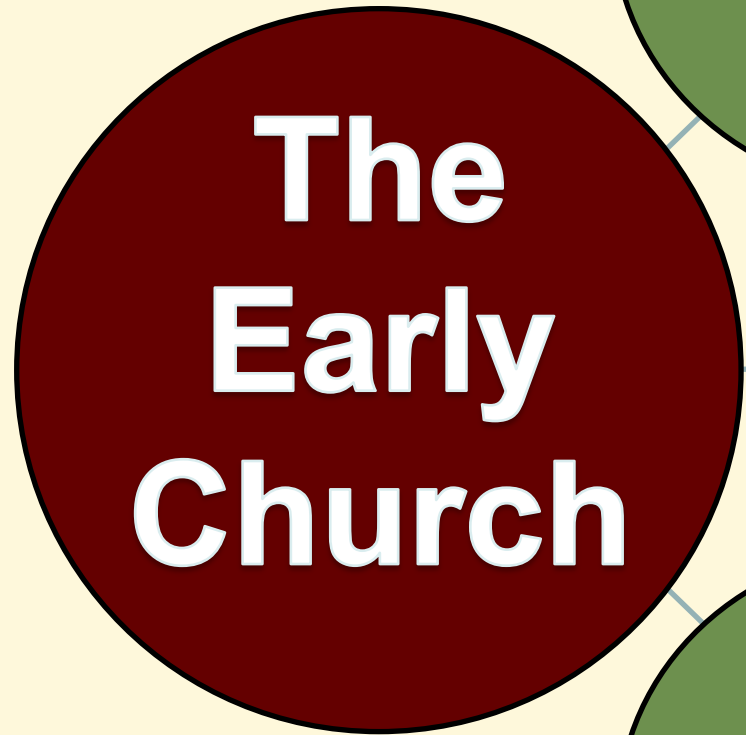
Bible

Creeds



AD 70 to AD 312

Session 1



Bishops

- **Structure / Hierarchy**
- **Guard Against Heresy**
- **Teach, Baptize**

Bible

- **AD 200 "Letter"**
- **AD 397 Full Canon**
- **Prayerful Criteria**

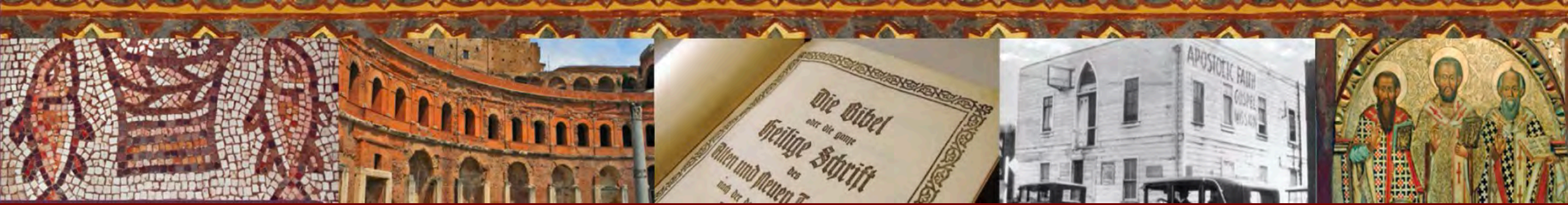
Creeds

- **Baptismal AD 110**
- **Early Apostles AD 340**
- **Minimal Standards of Belief & Doctrine**

ichthus

Iesous (Jesus)
Christos (Christ)
Theou (God)
Uios (Son)
Soter (Savior)





Early Church Stabilization

Pro's / Con's of Bishops?

The Role of Creeds / Confessions -

Should we use them today?



Emperor Constantine – AD 312

Session

1

This Changes Everything ...

- District “Governors” Fight it Out
- Constantine – Battle of Milvian Bridge
- A Vision to Victory
- Co-Emperor with Licinius,
“Sole Emperor” by AD 324



Emperor Constantine – AD 312

Session

1

The Edict of Milan

“Our purpose is to allow Christians to worship as they desire, so that whatever Divinity lives in the heavens will be kind to us.”



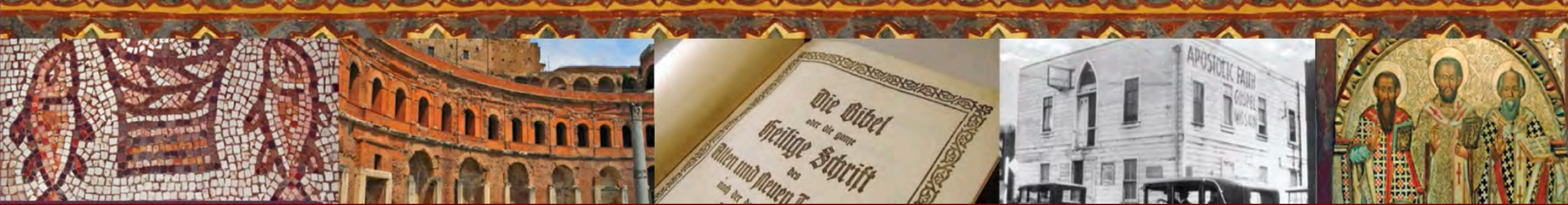
Emperor Constantine – AD 312

Session

1

Eusebius (on edict of Milan)

“The whole human race was freed from the oppression of the tyrants. We especially, who had fixed our hopes upon the Christ of God, had gladness unspeakable.”



Constantine

How Did the Edict of Milan Impact
the Church of AD 312?
What is Risk of Imperial Church?



Council of Nicaea (AD 325)

Session

1

Arius, Elder / Priest of Alexandria

“There was a time when the Son was not.”

“If Father and Son were equal then Christ should be called God’s brother, not Son.”

Council of Nicaea (AD 325)

Session

1

Constantine Convenes a Council in Nicaea (July 4, 325)

- **300 Bishops, many Elders and Deacons**
- **Constantine – Declared Himself Bishop & Apostle, and Called Council to Order**
- **298 Bishops Agreed – Arius Contradicted Scripture; “Heresy”**

Council of Nicaea (AD 325)

Session

1

Results of the 1st Church Council

- Arius “Excommunicated”
- The *Nicene Creed* Formulated
- The *Gloria Patri* (Doxology) Created
- Doctrine of Scripture – Protected by Bishops – Emphasized by Creed

THE NICENE CREED

I BELIEVE IN ONE GOD, THE FATHER ALMIGHTY, MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH, OF ALL THINGS VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE. I BELIEVE IN ONE LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE ONLY BEGOTTEN SON OF GOD, BORN OF THE FATHER BEFORE ALL AGES. GOD FROM GOD, LIGHT FROM LIGHT, TRUE GOD FROM TRUE GOD, BEGOTTEN, NOT MADE, CONSUBSTANTIAL WITH THE FATHER; THROUGH HIM ALL THINGS WERE MADE. FOR US MEN AND FOR OUR SALVATION HE CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN, AND BY THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS INCARNATE OF THE VIRGIN MARY, AND BECAME MAN. FOR OUR SAKE HE WAS CRUCIFIED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE, HE SUFFERED DEATH AND WAS BURIED, AND ROSE AGAIN ON THE THIRD DAY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCRIPTURES. HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN AND IS SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER. HE WILL COME AGAIN IN GLORY TO JUDGE THE LIVING AND THE DEAD AND HIS KINGDOM WILL HAVE NO END. I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE LORD, THE GIVER OF LIFE, WHO PROCEEDS FROM THE FATHER AND THE SON, WHO WITH THE FATHER AND THE SON IS ADORED AND GLORIFIED, WHO HAS SPOKEN THROUGH THE PROPHETS. I BELIEVE IN ONE, HOLY, CATHOLIC AND APOSTOLIC CHURCH. I CONFESS ONE BAPTISM FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS AND I LOOK FORWARD TO THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD AND THE LIFE OF THE WORLD TO COME. AMEN.



1. **G** Ló-ri-a Pátri, et Fí-li-o, et Spi-rí-tu-i Sáncto. *

Sic-ut é-rat in princí-pi-o, et nunc, et semper, et in

saécu-la saecu-ló-rum. Amen or Eu ou a e.

Gloria Patri

or Eu ou a e.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the
beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, Amen.

Council of Chalcedon (AD 451)

Session

1

The Nature of Christ Examined

- **Fully Human / Fully Divine – How?**
- **Significant Regional Division**
- **Emperor Marcian Summons Council**
- **500 Bishops (Mostly Eastern)**
- **Pope Leo the Great Influence**

Chalcedonian Definition

Following, then, the holy Fathers, we all unanimously teach that our Lord Jesus Christ is to us One and the same Son, the Self-same Perfect in Godhead, the Self-same Perfect in Manhood; *truly God and truly Man*; the Self-same of a rational soul and body; *co-essential* with the Father according to the Godhead, the Self-same co-essential with us according to the Manhood; like us in all things, sin apart; *before the ages begotten of the Father* as to the Godhead, but in the last days, the Self-same, for us and for our salvation (born) of Mary the Virgin *Theotokos* as to the Manhood; One of the same

Chalcedonian Definition

Christ, Son, Lord, Only-begotten; acknowledged in ***Two Natures unconfusedly, unchangeably, indivisibly, inseparably***; the difference of the Natures being in no way removed because of the Union, but rather the properties of each Nature being preserved, and (both) concurring into One Person and One Hypostasis; not as though He was parted or divided into Two Persons, but One and the Self-same Son and Only-begotten God, Word, Lord, Jesus Christ; even as from the beginning the prophets have taught concerning Him, and as the Lord Jesus Christ Himself hath taught us.

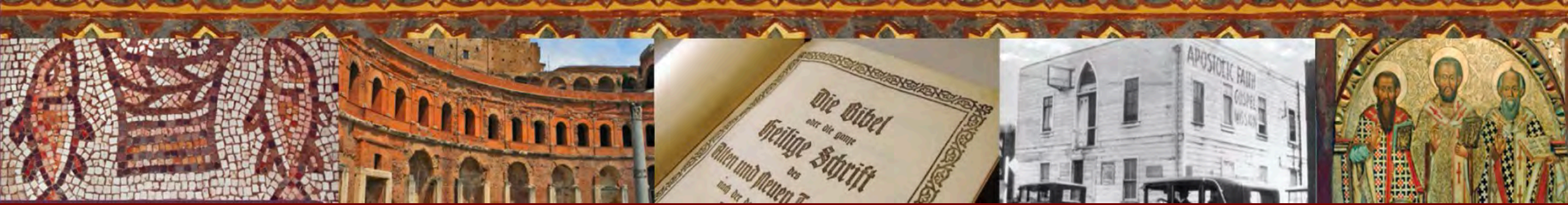
Council of Chalcedon (AD 451)

Session

1

Results of the 4th Church Council

- **Affirmed Nicene Creed / Christology**
- **Affirmed Christ's Person / Natures**
- **Preserved Delicate Unity of East / West**
- **“New Rome” = “Old Rome”**
- **Set the stage for Session Two**



Church Councils

Can We Defend These Decisions?
What Are Your Thoughts on Councils?



For Overachievers – First 500 Years

- **The Didache**
- **Josephus**
- **Justin Martyr**
- **Clement, B. of Rome**
- **Ignatius, B. of Antioch**
- **Polycarp, B. of Smyrna**
- **Irenaeus, B. of Lyon**
- **Tertullian**
- **St. Patrick**
- **Eusebius**
- **Athanasius**
- **Ambrose**
- **Augustine of Hippo**
- **John Chrysostom**
- **Jerome (The Vulgate)**

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