

# Post Tenebras Lux: What does it mean to repent?

## THESIS

#1 When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, “Repent” (**Mt. 4:17**), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.

#2 This word cannot be understood as referring to the sacrament of penance, that is confession and satisfaction, as administered by the clergy.

#3 Yet it does not mean solely inner repentance; such inner repentance is worthless unless it produces various outward mortification of the flesh.

## Context:

- Luther observed the prevalent condition of the “Christian” as one who was unchanged by the gospel and merely identifying as “Catholic.”
- He believed that repentance could not be accomplished by the absolvment of sin by a clergy member.
- He believed that repentance is a critical part of faith that is turning of ones life, both inwardly and outwardly, from sin towards God.

**Repent** (def.) *metanoia*- change of mind (whole being)

*“True repentance is the turning of the heart as well as the life. It is the giving of the whole soul to God to be his forever and ever. It is the renunciation of the sins of the heart as well as the crimes of life.”* Spurgeon

## Repentance in action.

1. Turn to God.
2. Turn from sin both inwardly and outwardly.

**Isaiah 55:6-7** “Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked **forsake** their **ways** and the unrighteous their **thoughts.**”

## The call to repent.

- John the Baptist. **Matthew 3:1-2**
- Jesus Christ. **Matthew 4:17; Mark 1:14; Luke 5:31; Luke 13:5**

- Message of the Apostles. **Mark 6:12**
- Paul and the early church. **Acts 20:20**

### **Heaven rejoices when one repents. Luke 15:8-10**

#### **Repentance and Salvation.**

- Salvation is by grace through faith. **Ephesians 2:8-9**
- A “component” of faith is belief. GTV **Romans 10:8-11**
- Belief that saves is evidenced by repentance. **James 2:14-19**
  - Faith that has no evidence is no faith at all.
  - Believing the right things does not save you either, hence the demons predicament.
  - Faith that is alive is evidenced by the transformative work of God in one’s life—Turning inside and out!

*Luther was reacting to “easy believism” and the trusting in the work of clergy rather than coming to God seeking mercy and grace and turning your back on the path of sins’ destruction.*