

# REPENTANCE CONFUSION

## ISSUES IN LUTHER'S 95 THESES – PART IV

*“From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say,  
Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” – Matthew 4:17 (KJB)*

*“From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say:  
Do penance, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” – Catholic Douay-Rheims*

### 1. The Issue

- a. Repentance was the key issue of the 95 Theses – Theses 1-4
- b. Still causes confusion today: 1) What does it mean? 2) Is it a work? 3) Did I repent right?
- c. It is a part of gospel presentations – Acts 2:38, 3:19, 17:30, 20:21
- d. The translation affected a major doctrine in Matthew 4:17 – “do penance” vs. “repent”

### 2. What Is Repentance

- a. Repent ~ To change one's mind with desire – consider repent, remorse, regret – Jer 8:6
- b. God repents in the Bible, but not of sin–Gen 6:6, Ex 32:14, Ps 135:14, Ze 8:14-15, Ro 11:29
- c. Our need to repent comes from our understanding of sin – Rom 3:10-12
- d. Catholic repentance (sacrament of penance) includes: contrition, confession, satisfaction
- e. Contrition – lament, grief, sorrow- Ps 34:18, 51:17, Isa 66:2;
- f. Confession – Lev 26:40, Ps 32:5, Mark 1:5, 1 John 1:9
- g. Satisfaction – Isa 53:11, Heb 11:6, 13:16, 1 Pet 2:5
- h. All are Bible words, but do not concern the gospel of grace – 2 Cor 11:4

### 3. Is it a Work

- a. Repentance confusion: it's a work, turn from sins, stop sinning, offer sacrifice, do penance
- b. Contrition – How do you create it when sin is present in you? (The gospel → Eph 1:13)
- c. Confession – How do you remember all of them? (Beware Rom 10:9-10)
- d. Satisfaction – How much do you offer? (Only found in Christ – Rom 3:25)
- e. Turn from sins – How do stop sinning before you are saved from sin? – Eze 18:21, 30
- f. None of this requires faith, grace, Christ, or his cross – none of this is the gospel of grace
- g. If we are taking our own punishment, Christ did not. If we work it is not of grace–Ro 4:5
- h. Theses 1-4 – Repentance is inward not in the work, it is your whole life, its need endures
- i. Even Luther planted confusion when he quoted Ps 51:11 and 1 John 3:9 for the Christian
- j. If you have to repent/confess every time then you don't know – Rom 6:6-11

### 4. Did I Repent Right?

- a. Paul preaches repentance – Acts 17:30, 26:20, 2 Tim 2:25 – not works! (Titus 3:5)
- b. Have you changed your mind about your required works? Rom 4:4-8
- c. Have you changed your mind about justifying yourself – Rom 5:1
- d. Have you changed your mind about who you are in Christ? – 1 Cor 6:11
- e. If you've heard the gospel, and believed then it is not in vain to say you are saved – 1 Cor 15:1-4, 1 Cor 1:18