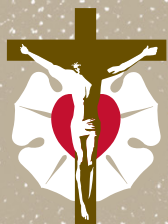


THE ENTIRE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS ONE OF REPENTANCE.

Luther's 95 Theses begins, "When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, 'Repent' (MATT. 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance." That doesn't sound very exciting. Luther encouraged people to renew their Baptism every day. Christians are to daily die to the old Adam, their sinful nature. In his Large Catechism, Luther observed that Baptism "is nothing else than putting to death the old Adam, and after that the resurrection of the new man, both of which must take place in us all our lives, so that a truly Christian life is nothing else than a daily Baptism, once begun and ever to be continued. For this must be practiced without ceasing, that we ever keep purging away whatever is of the old Adam, and that that which belongs to the new man come forth." Dying to self in order to rise with Christ is the daily reality of faith.

The focus is not on our dying or on our old Adam (sin). The focus is on the promise of resurrection in Jesus Christ. He is our life. He is our hope. He is our joy. Repentance is a turning away from self to Jesus. In Him is life and light. In Him is salvation and forgiveness. In Him is eternal life. Repent. You are His. Through Baptism. And this is true every day.



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