



On the heels of Easter, we begin a new series, exploring the bedrock of our Christian Faith: Jesus Christ. Over the weekend, many celebrated the death of Jesus. In today's *Conversation*, the Director of Communications (Dr. T) explores its value with Rev. Mark Lobitz:

**Dr. T:** *What did Jesus' death actually accomplish?*

**Rev. Lobitz:** A payment is needed for each human mistake (sin) and for the brokenness of the whole world. We humans are unable to make that payment. Jesus' death on the cross completely took care of that debt.

Jesus died for the sins of the whole world. "He died for all" (2 Corinthians 5:15). By his death Jesus atoned, reconciled and made things right between God and humanity. "In Christ God was reconciling the world unto himself, not counting their trespasses against them " (2 Corinthians 5:19).

Jesus' death on the cross brought the grace gift from God of forgiveness and eternal life that all need. The cross of Jesus was and is God's plan of love for all. We receive and confess this work of Jesus by faith. "By grace through faith" (Ephesians 2:8). St. Paul wrote these words to the Galatians believers: "And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

**Rev. Mark Lobitz** is pastor of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church-Canmore, Alberta and vacancy pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church-Golden, B.C. He is the president of Concordia Lutheran Mission Society, an auxiliary of Lutheran Church-Canada. Rev. Lobitz is also adjunct professor at Concordia Lutheran Seminary-Edmonton, Alberta. Currently he is supervising a Pastors with Alternate Training PAT student and a colloquy pastor in training. He is married to Joyce and has 5 children and 11 grandchildren.

Jesus died. So, does that make Him Lord? We find that out in our next *Conversation* as we continue our journey back to basics . . .