



We have been speaking about the Trinity, God and knowing God in this series, God, Trinity, and Revelation, as we explore fundamentals of our Christian Faith. They seem to be all intricately connected, but is there a way to know God outside of Jesus? The Director of Communications (Dr. T) puts that question to Rev. Dr. Robert Bugbee:

**Dr. T:** *Can God be known apart from Jesus?*

**Rev. Bugbee:** The Gospel tells us very clearly, "*No one has ever seen God; God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known*" (John 1:18 ESV). There is plenty of general talk about "God" in the world, but it is only in Jesus Christ that we find out exactly how the true God feels toward us, what He has done to save us, and how we can be reconciled to Him (2 Cor. 5:19). Jesus Himself underscored this when He told a confused disciple, Philip, "*Whoever has seen me has seen the Father*" (John 14:9 ESV). This is also why the apostles in the days of the early church "*did not stop teaching and preaching the Good News of Jesus as the Christ*" (Acts 5:42 NASB).

Truly Christian faith and witness always focus — like a laser! — on Jesus, Who He is and what He has done. It's why our altars often include an image of Jesus on His cross, since St. Paul said, "*We preach Christ crucified*" (1 Cor 1:23 ESV). Vague notions about some sort of God are bound to get us off the track, but words from and about Jesus have the power to lead us straight to the true God, to reveal His heart for us, and to kindle faith that rivets us to Him. That's what Jesus Himself yearned for in His high-priestly prayer, "*this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent*" (John 17:3).

**Rev. Dr. Robert Bugbee** serves as pastor of First Lutheran Church and Christian Academy in Windsor, Ontario. He is a Past President of Lutheran Church-Canada (2008-2018).

As the *Conversations* continue, one pastor adds: "We only learn about Jesus from the Bible; and although we know a lot about God from natural knowledge (Romans 1), it is only through Jesus that we learn the

*heart* of God. Someone once said: When God wanted us to know what was on His mind and in His heart, He sent Jesus." There we have it! In the meantime, let's turn our attention to Jesus Christ himself—how can a human be God? We'll explore that in our next *Conversation*.