

Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles

December 1, 2024 – The True Meaning of Christ's First Coming – Harold S. Marti

The True Meaning of Christ's First Coming (Part 1)

During the Advent Season there are so many things in our communities to distract one's attention, that we have a tendency to miss the true meaning of Christmas.

Some link Christmas with decorated trees, sentimental carols, and office parties. Sometimes folks are so occupied with candy and carols, and tinsel and toys, that the real eternal meaning of Christ's Advent is lost. Christmas often involves spending money people don't have for things they don't need. The average American uses seventy feet of Christmas paper and more than fifty yards of ribbon to wrap an average of thirty-two gifts. All this stands in stark contrast to the birth that took place in Bethlehem nearly two thousand years ago, a birth that was rugged and simple.

The good news of Christmas is not a date in history—for no one knows with certainty when Jesus was born. The good news of Christmas is not a festival, with its gifts, fun, feasting, yule log, and lighted Christmas tree—for these are but vestiges of a pagan culture that knows nothing of the true God. The good news of Christmas centers around a person--God's unspeakable gift, a Saviour who is Christ the Lord.

The Advent Season is a time to search hearts. We must think of Jesus Christ not merely as the baby Jesus, but as the risen, presently-living, soon-coming King of kings and Lord of lords. He makes demands on our lives; He is a threat to our smug and self-centered ways of living. Unconditional surrender to His lordship is the price believers need to pay in order to have a joyous testimony for Him.

Of all the titles attributed to Jesus, the one that should warm our hearts most of all, is the title Emmanuel, which means God with us. When Jesus was born, God became man. The One who flung the stars out into space, came to earth and dwelled among the human family. The tiny arms of that Baby in the manger were the arms of the One who laid the foundation of the universe. The coming of Jesus Christ into the world was the time when God came to earth. God took on a human body and dwelled among us.

From Erlinda Cruz:

The birth of Jesus was prophesied way back in time in the heart of God! After creation, God created man in His image and likeness, gave them the garden to live in, and empowered them to manage and govern it.

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And then they sinned and rebelled against God's command—naked and afraid and separated from God, banished out of the garden and now under another god. To the tempter devil, God caused him to crawl to the ground and God decreed:

"I will make you and the woman hostile toward each other. I will make your descendants and her descendant hostile toward each other. He will crush your head, and you will bruise his heel."

Genesis 3:15 GW

Here starts the coming of Him who will crush the enemy and destroy his evil! Here comes the redemption plan of a loving God! Here comes the cry for MARANATHA!