

# ***Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles***

---

December 4, 2024 – The True Meaning of Christ's First Coming – Harold S. Marti

## ***The True Meaning of Christ's First Coming (Part 4)***

### **2. JESUS CAME TO PUT AWAY SIN**

The Apostle John assures us that we can know "that he was manifested to take away our sins" (1 John 3:5). Jesus was speaking of His crucifixion and death when He said, "For this cause came I into the world" (John 18:37). The Apostle Paul says, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief" (1 Timothy 1:15). Jesus Christ came to Bethlehem primarily to die. He came to earth as the Baby of Bethlehem in order that He might later become the Christ of Calvary.

All humans have sinned. Every one of us has fallen short of the standard which God demands. And our sin places a separation between us and God. The gulf between us and God is so wide, and the separation is so great, that none of us by his own efforts is able to close it.

Many seem to think that the gulf between sinful humans and a holy God can be closed by good works. If you say so many prayers, and give so many alms, or make a pilgrimage to some holy place--these things somehow are supposed to erase a sinner's guilt. But this will never do. Take the man who drives his car faster than the speed limit. What can he do to atone for the wrong he has done? If he thinks good works will do it--if he thinks good deeds will atone for the wrong he has done--then he can diligently observe all the traffic laws for the rest of the day. But any policeman will assure us that this is not enough. There is a penalty for disobedience, and no amount of carefulness afterward will atone for the past disobedience. If we fall short of God's standard on Monday, we can never erase that guilt by walking straight on Tuesday. No person can erase his own guilt, and neither can any other human being erase it for him. All persons, no matter how upright and morally clean they are living--still have come short of God's demands and thus need to be saved. Mortal sinful men and women cannot save themselves.

#### ***From Erlinda Cruz:***

Jesus Christ's first coming was a display of who God is to show the world that through Him, salvation comes and entry into God's kingdom is available!

Through Christ, the WAY is open.

Through Christ, the TRUTH was laid.

Through Christ, LIFE was given.

A taste of eternity in seeing Jesus display God made man hunger and thirst for Who He is, recognizing their sin, they received salvation and gained access to His throne!