

The Magnificent Obsession

Chapter 2

Audio lesson: New Testament 2



Objective: To learn the primary emphases and purposes of the four gospels.



“My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.”

—John 4:34

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.”

—John 3:16-18

The Bible addresses the most basic and fundamental problem of humanity—that we have divorced ourselves from God and that separation must be reconciled. The Old Testament tells us the divorce is the result of sin – the sin of Adam and Eve, our parents. Its message summarizes the solution to our problem of separation from God with these words: “Jesus is coming!” The message of the New Testament, however, describes the solution to our problem from a different perspective: “Jesus came!” The reason He came was to provide forgiveness for our sin and to reconcile us to God.

Jesus was the greatest revelation of truth that the world has ever been given. All other beliefs and opinions must be measured by the truth that He gave us. In fact, the New Testament tells us that Jesus was (and is) the exact image of God. Out of His union with God, He gave us all the truth we could possibly understand about God. Because the gospels tell of Jesus’ life, works, and teaching, they are the most important books in the Bible.

Jesus was zealous about His mission to reconcile humanity to God. He said that His “food” was to do the work God sent Him to do. He came because God wanted to communicate with us in a way we could understand. This is why it is so important to study the gospels: to understand God’s message and to receive His solution to our problem of separation from Him.



1. True or **false**? The gospels are very thorough, covering every stage of Jesus' life.
2. **True** or false? Matthew and Luke are the only gospels that tell about the birth of Jesus.
3. **True** or false? All four gospels emphasize Jesus' death and resurrection above all else.
4. **True** or false? Jesus, who dwells in those who believe, can still heal today.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one best answer for each question.

5. Why is the last week of Jesus' ministry so important?
 - a. It is the only part of Jesus' life we know anything about.
 - b. He did not do anything important until that week.
 - c. He tried to take over the Roman government that week, which is why He was crucified.
 - d. He became the "Lamb of God" and offered Himself up as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of the world.**
6. What was Jesus' "magnificent obsession"?
 - a. Becoming well known and influential
 - b. Learning as much as He could to become enlightened
 - c. Doing the will of God and finishing the work the Father had given Him**
 - d. Using political power for good purposes
7. What was the great accomplishment Jesus discussed with Moses and Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration?
 - a. His death on a cross**
 - b. His miracles of healing
 - c. Training twelve men to be just like Him
 - d. Defending the weak and helpless of society

8. What was the primary purpose of Jesus' death and resurrection?
 - a. To demonstrate His divinity
 - b. To show us that death is just an illusion
 - c. To reconcile the divorce between God and humanity**
 - d. To teach us to sacrifice for each other

9. How did Jesus bridge our separation from God?
 - a. He "redeemed" us, or bought our way back into God's family.**
 - b. He convinced God that we were not as bad as He thought.
 - c. He convinced us that God was not as holy as we thought.
 - d. He taught us how to earn God's favor with good works.

10. What works other than redemption did Jesus do?
 - a. He showed us the way to live.
 - b. He taught us the truth.
 - c. He did miracles of healing, protection, and provision.
 - d. All of the above**

11. What is the greatest proof of the New Testament?
 - a. The fact that everyone who heard Jesus believed Him
 - b. Jesus' resurrection**
 - c. The miracles Jesus' disciples did
 - d. There is no proof. We have to have blind faith.



Have you experienced the redemption and new life Jesus offers and have you been reconciled to God? If so, how has your life changed by knowing Him? If not, ask Him to forgive your sins and make you right with God and help you follow His ways.



Thank God for all of His blessings—redemption, new life, His power and presence in your life, and everything else that He has provided for you. Ask Him for opportunities to accomplish His will and do all the works He has called you to do, and for His help to do them.



Going Deeper

1. How did Jesus reconcile the divorce between God and man? (Consider 2 Corinthians 5: 18 - 21) _____

2. How do the books of Exodus and Leviticus support the reality that Jesus came to reconcile that divorce through His death on the cross? _____

3. Why do half of the chapters in the Gospel of John cover the first 33 years of the life of Jesus and the second half of his chapters cover the last week in the life of Jesus? What is so important about that last week? _____

4. How does this observation tell us why Jesus came? _____

5. What were the vision statement and the mission objectives of Jesus, according to Jesus Himself? (Consider John 4:34; 9:4; 17:4; 19:30) _____

6. Do you have a personal vision statement and mission objectives because Jesus came into your life? If so, what are they? _____

7. How does the seventh beatitude merge with 2 Corinthians 5: 18-19? _____
