

Soteriology (Salvation) Books

Romans

Jesus is Righteousness & Grace

Romans 3:10, *"There is none righteous, no not one."*

Romans 3:23, *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."*

In this epistle (letter), Paul explores all the wrong options and takes us to the only correct one.

Romans 1 and 2—The wrong solutions are works and religion.

Romans 3:21-26—The correct solution is grace through faith.

*We are saved by grace (undeserved, unearned favor)
through faith (complete trust) in Jesus and His work.*

1 & 2 Corinthians

Jesus was made to be sin for us. He is the Firstfruits from among the dead.

Corinth—a city famous for sin.

"To act like a Corinthian" – sexual sins

Temple to Aphrodite—goddess of love and sex

Port city—much commerce and tourism

Large population—250,000 free people and 400,000 slaves

Paul visited this city on his second missionary journey. There he met Aquila and Priscilla. They became close friends and co-laborers in ministry.

Paul returned two more times to minister to the churches there.

There was a major lifestyle change when the people accepted Christ as Savior. But they had to learn to live in their new way of life.

During Paul's third missionary journey, he heard that the Corinthian believers were having all sorts of struggles. He also received a letter from the Corinthian church leaders asking him for answers to many questions. So he responded with the first letter.

Even after the church received Paul's answers, some people continued to cause problems. False teachers questioned Paul's authority. So, he wrote another letter to defend his ministry. Paul exposed the differences between false apostles/fleshly leaders and true apostles/spiritual leaders.

In these two letters, Paul addresses things like:

- Sexual sin
- Taking other believers to court
- Marriage
- Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Is there really a resurrection?
- Pride sin within leadership

Eschatological Epistles— Letters About the Future:

1 & 2 Thessalonians

Jesus is our returning Lord and the world's returning Judge.

The second coming of our Lord is the truth presented by Paul in the two letters to the Thessalonians. There are 20 different references to His coming. This is the blessed hope of the Church.

Paul, accompanied by Timothy and Silas, spent only 3 Sundays at Thessalonica on his second missionary journey. But during that time he not only founded a church, but he also grounded it firmly in the faith.

He was there a short time but caused a great stir. In Acts 17:6, Paul's enemies accused him of *"turning the world upside down."*

He left, but sent a letter back to the church by Timothy.

If you wish to know how to get along with others in Christian work, just go over the things Paul said under the guidance of the Spirit:

- Paul did not try to please men in ways that displeased God.
- He did not try to capture men by flattery.
- He was not covetous of what others had.
- Paul was not seeking glory for himself out of his work.
- Paul kept at his task day and night.
- Paul always encouraged others.

Paul told the believers that the coming of the Lord should be an incentive to:

- Right living --3:13
- Consistent walk --4:1
- Purity --4:3-7
- Love --4:9-10

1 Thess. 4:13-18 --“*caught up*” means “rapture.”

The coming of Christ is in two parts:

1. Rapture of the Church (1 Thessalonians)
2. Christ’s second “touch down” on earth (2 Thessalonians)

Pastoral Epistles

1 Timothy

Jesus is the only Mediator between God and man.

Timothy probably became a Christian during Paul’s first missionary journey to Galatia. His father was Greek. His mother, Eunice, was Jewish. Eunice, along with her mother, Lois, taught Timothy the Old Testament scriptures since he was very young.

When Paul and his group left Lystra, he took Timothy along to accompany them on the rest of the second missionary journey, as well as the entire third journey. Later, Paul left Timothy in Ephesus to take care of church problems there. False teachers were emphasizing the Law.

Paul wrote 1 Timothy for two reasons:

1. To encourage Timothy as a person. Paul wanted him to continue to be a good example in character.
2. To enable Timothy to teach and manage the church properly.

1 Timothy 2 opens with a prayer request. He urges believers to pray for everyone, especially government leaders, for three reasons:

1. Praying for leaders helps us live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness. (2:2)
2. God wants all to be saved. (2:4)
3. Jesus died for everyone. (2:6)

1 Timothy 3 gives instructions on managing the church.

1 Timothy 4 gives instructions on false teachings.

1 Timothy 5-6 gives instructions concerning various people in the church—

- older and younger
- widows
- elders
- slaves
- false teachers
- men of God
- rich

Titus

Jesus is our Great God and Savior who gives us grace to be holy.

It seems that Paul led both Titus and Timothy to Christ. Titus was a Greek who traveled with Paul and Barnabas from Antioch to Jerusalem to discuss Gentile ministry. Titus is an example of being saved through faith in Christ rather than by keeping the Law of Moses.

Titus was a pastor in Crete. Paul's letter to him centered upon sound doctrine or good teaching.

Paul taught that the actions of believers create the reputation of the gospel.		
Titus	How Believers Should Act	Why?
2:4–5	Younger women, love your husbands; be self-controlled and pure; be busy at home; be kind; submit to your husbands.	So that no one will malign or speak evil of the Word of God
2:6–8	Young men, be self-controlled. Titus, be an example for them in doing what is good. Teach with integrity that cannot be condemned.	So that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us
2:9–10	Slaves (workers), submit to your masters. Do not be rude. Do not steal from them. Be worthy of trust.	So that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive

Twelve Requirements for Pastors		
	1 Tim.	Titus
Negative Characteristics to Avoid (Blameless: not guilty of five accusations)	3:2	1:6–7
1. Not given to drunkenness	3:3	1:7
2. Not overbearing or quarrelsome	3:3	1:7
3. Not quick-tempered; not violent	3:3	1:7
4. Not a lover of money; not pursuing dishonest gain	3:3	1:7
5. Not a recent convert	3:6	
Positive Characteristics to Have (Respected for seven good reasons)	3:2–7	1:7
1. The husband of one wife	3:2	1:6
2. Gentle	3:3	
3. Temperate; self-controlled; disciplined	3:2	1:8
4. Hospitable	3:2	1:8
5. One who loves what is good; upright and holy		1:8
6. Able to teach; and holding firmly to sound doctrine	3:2	1:9
7. A good manager of his own family	3:12	1:6

2 Timothy

Jesus is the Giver of crowns to the faithful shepherds and believers.

This is Paul's final letter.

John 3:16 is the heartbeat of the Gospel.

2 Timothy 3:16—Jesus is the Word. The written Word of God is infallible. *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”*

Paul's Pastoral Instructions to Timothy	2 Tim.
"Fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you."	1:6
"Do not be ashamed to testify . . . But join with me in suffering."	1:8
"Keep. . . the pattern of sound teaching."	1:13
"Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you."	1:14
"Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus."	2:1
"The things you have heard me say . . . entrust to reliable men."	2:2
"Keep reminding them of these things. Warn them before God."	2:14
"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved."	2:15
"Avoid godless chatter."	2:16
"Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness."	2:22
"Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments."	2:23
"Be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful."	2:24
"Lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—. . . Have nothing to do with them."	3:4-5
"Continue in what you have learned."	3:14
"Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage."	4:2
"Keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, . . . discharge all the duties of your ministry."	4:5