

## Paul's Dealing with Problems

The New Testament does not systematically present theology. Rather, most NT writings are actually letters addressing a particular problem (and at least ten letters below respond to heretics). The chart below shows Paul's unique solution for each situation. The *key word* for that epistle is *italicized* (cf. NT Survey, 1:24).

<b>Letter</b>	<b>Recipient's Problem</b>	<b>Paul's Solution</b>
<b>Galatians</b> (Soteriology)	<b>Heretics</b> taught new believers that they must obey the Mosaic Law to be saved	<b>Justification</b> is by faith alone and not by keeping the Law
<b>1 Thessalonians</b> (Eschatology)	<b>Heretics</b> questioned Paul's church planting motives and the state of believers at Christ's Return if they had already died	They should prepare for the <b>Rapture</b> by seeing Paul's pure motives and being comforted over believers who died
<b>2 Thessalonians</b> (Eschatology)	<b>Heretics</b> taught the believers were in the Tribulation due to intense persecution so some quit their jobs and became lazy	The Day of the Lord ( <b>Tribulation</b> ) won't start until after the Church is removed and they must persevere without idleness
<b>1 Corinthians</b> (Ecclesiology)	Disorder in the church came from divisions, moral deviations, and false doctrines taught by <b>heretics</b>	Proper behavior where positional <b>sanctification</b> becomes practical results only from a true theology of the gospel
<b>2 Corinthians</b> (Ecclesiology)	<b>Heretics</b> undermined Paul's authority to advise the church	Paul defends his <b>apostleship</b> in his new covenant ministry to affirm the church's doctrinal foundation and giving
<b>Romans</b> (Soteriology)	<b>Jew-Gentile</b> struggles disrupted body life in confusion over the role of the Law and insensitivity to one another in gray areas	Living out God's <b>righteousness</b> achieved by justification through faith will bring unity before Paul arrives
<b>Ephesians</b> (Christology)	<b>Jew-Gentile</b> disunity within the church hindered their testimony before unbelievers	God's mystery of Jew-Gentile <b>unity</b> in the Church under Christ as Head must show itself in love for each other
<b>Colossians</b> (Christology)	<b>Heretics</b> led believers into combining legalism, asceticism, and angel worship	Christ is God ( <b>deity</b> ), so the church must worship Him alone in holy living
<b>Philemon</b> (Christology)	A Christian slave owner (Philemon) was tempted to <b>mistreat</b> his now-believing former slave, Onesimus, who had returned	This master must grant <b>forgiveness</b> to his former slave to model the reconciliation of believers to God through Christ
<b>Philippians</b> (Christology)	Concern over Paul's fate in prison was complicated by legalistic and libertine <b>heretics</b> and disunited women	Imitating Christ's <b>attitude</b> will give joy, humility, balance between "law extremes" and peace with God and man
<b>1 Timothy</b> (Ecclesiology)	Ascetic and speculative <b>heretics</b> threatened Timothy's leadership of the Ephesian church	Church <b>order</b> will follow if Timothy guards his personal life and doctrine and shares leadership with other godly men
<b>Titus</b> (Ecclesiology)	<b>Heretics</b> on Crete hindered the health of the newly planted churches	Teach believers sound <b>conduct</b> through qualified elders to silence accusations
<b>2 Timothy</b> (Ecclesiology)	<b>Heretics</b> and persecution of believers caused many believers to deny Christ	Persevere in sound <b>doctrine</b> by preaching and practicing God's Word despite hardship

Do you also know the issues *your* people face? Do you ignore them or *resolve* them within your church?