**Contrasting Galatians and James**

The letters of Galatians and James are the first two epistles in our NT, chronologically speaking. This means that they help set the foundation of doctrinal truth for the rest of the correspondence of Paul and the apostles. Both letters were written in the AD 40s when the church was still young in its second decade after Christ’s ascension. Both were strong exhortations written to a more general readership than to a single assembly. However, they differ in some notable ways:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| ***Issues*** | ***Galatians*** | ***James*** |
| *Probable Date* | AD 48 | AD 44 |
| *Length* | 6 chapters | 5 chapters |
| *Faith for…* | Salvation | Demonstration |
| *Written by…* | Paul | James |
| *Written to…* | Gentiles | Jews (1:1) |
| *Readers’ view of Author…* | Doubted his authority | Accepted his authority |
| *Audience in a…* | Province | Diaspora |
| *Problem…* | Heresy | Persecution |
| *False…* | Teaching | Living |
| *Subject* | We can’t see faith | We can see works |
| *Form* | Organized, sequential | Repetitive, circular |
| *Outline* | Easy to discern | Difficult to discern |
| *Major concern* | Theological | Practical |
| *Justification is a…* | Technical term | Non-technical term |
| *Justification before…* | God | Man |
| *Justification direction* | Vertical | Horizontal |
| *Key word* | Justification | Works |

What other contrasts can you add to these above? Write them on the chart.

The church needs both of these books as together they provide both the theological and practical balance we each need as believers. May you become an expert in both books and subjects!