

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:

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