



## What is It?

Galatians and Ephesians are two epistles (letters) of the New Testament written by Paul. They were written for reasons specific to the churches to whom they were addressed. In the case of Galatians, not for a specific church but for churches in the region of Galatia that he had previously visited.

## Who, What, When, Where and Why

**Who** – With the first word in each book, Paul clearly identifies himself as the author. Some critics believe that someone else wrote Ephesians as they claim that the style and words differ from his other letters. Still, this letter is very similar to Colossians. It may be that this difference is because after spending 3 years with them that, based on their spiritual maturity, he used different words. (Fritz’s perspective is that they needed more solid food than milk.)

**What** – Controversy continues in the early church. Paul addressed the fallout from false teachers who had preached obedience to the law in the Galician churches he founded. In Ephesians, Paul focuses on the divisions between the Jews and Gentiles.

**When** – Galatians was written in the early 50s A.D. while Ephesians was written later, about 60 A.D.

**Where** – As it’s not known with certainty when it was written, it’s not known from where Paul wrote Galatians, it may have been from Ephesus, Corinth or Antioch. It is, however, known that Paul wrote Ephesians from Rome while in prison.

**Why** – In Galatians, Paul corrects what false apostles were teaching which was in conflict with what he had already taught regarding law and gospel. He reinforces that we are saved by grace and are justified through faith in Jesus. In Ephesians, Paul speaks of the unity that we have as saints through baptism and, consequently, that God sees no difference between believers.

## Reading Advice

To read both Galatians and Ephesians in the next two weeks, you will need to read a chapter a day. Don’t be deceived by the light reading though, there is a lot of doctrine in every chapter. Remember one of our objectives is to develop a behavior of daily Bible study. You may wish to consider these two weeks as an opportunity to catch up if you’ve fallen behind. May the Holy Spirit continue to “encourage your hearts” (Ephesians 6:22).