

Corinth and Beyond



Acts 18:12-22 Winding up his 2nd Mission Trip
By Pastor John Fitzpatrick

Acts 18:12-22 Winding up his 2nd Mission Trip

Acts 18:12-22 Now while Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one purpose rose up against Paul and brought him before the judgment seat, 13 saying, "This man persuades men to worship God contrary to the law." 14 And when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, "If then it was some misdeed or wicked crime, O Jews, according to reason I would bear with you. 15 But if it is a question about a word and names and your own law, see to it yourselves; for I do not wish to be a judge of these things." 16 And he drove them away from the judgment seat. 17 Then all the Greeks, taking hold of Sosthenes the ruler of the synagogue, were beating him before the judgment seat. And none of these things was a concern to Gallio. 18 Now Paul still remained there a good while, then bid farewell to the brothers, and sailed away for Syria, and Priscilla and Aquila were with him. He had his hair cut off in Cenchrea, for he had taken a vow. 19 And he arrived in Ephesus, and he left those two there; but he, having entered into the synagogue, reasoned with the Jews. 20 And when they asked him to remain with them for a longer time, he did not consent, 21 but bid farewell to them saying, "I must by all means keep this coming feast which is in Jerusalem; but I will return again to you, God willing." And he put out to sea from Ephesus. 22 And having gone down to Caesarea, and having gone up and greeted the church, he went down to Antioch.

Before the Bema of Gallio helps us with timing

Acts 18:12 Now while Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one purpose rose up against Paul and brought him before the judgment seat,

Gallio's service in Corinth occurred during the proconsular period of his career. Achaia at this time was a second rank province, and these were under the supervision of the Senate and were administered by proconsuls. Generally in this region proconsuls served a one-year term, two at the most; and his tenure seems to have begun in the early summer. An inscription discovered at Delphi, which relates to the dedication of an aqueduct, mentions Gallio as being proconsul of Achaia and dates this during the period of Claudius's twenty-sixth acclamation as emperor. Such "acclamations" were made by the Roman senate at irregular intervals as affirmations of an emperor's rule. On the basis of other inscriptions, Claudius's twenty-sixth acclamation can be dated as covering the first seven months or so of A.D. 52. On this basis he is assumed as having begun his office in the summer of either A.D. 51 or A.D. 52. If one assumes that Gallio served the maximum two-year term, his tenure would have ended in summer of A.D. 54 at the latest. Putting this together with the date of Claudius's edict, Paul's 18 months in Corinth would have occurred sometime between winter of A.D. 49/50 and summer of A.D. 54;

Not all judges are the same.

Acts 18:14 And when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, "If then it was some misdeed or wicked crime, O Jews, according to reason I would bear with you. 15 But if it is a question about a word and names and your own law, see to it yourselves; for I do not wish to be a judge of these things." 16 And he drove them away from the judgment seat.

1 Corinthians 6:1-5 Does any of you, having a matter against another, dare go to court before the unrighteous, and not before the saints? 2 Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? 3 Do you not know that we will judge angels? Let alone ordinary matters! 4 If then you have ordinary lawsuits, you appoint those who are disdained within the church to judge. 5 I say this to your shame. So is there not among you a wise man, not even one, who will be able to judge between his brother and another?

Opportunities to share Gods love

Acts 18: 17 Then all the Greeks, taking hold of Sosthenes the ruler of the synagogue, were beating him before the judgment seat. And none of these things was a concern to Gallio.

Sosthenes is a common name in this region.

1 Corinthians 1:1-2 Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, 2 to the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all those who in every place are calling on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

Disciplining

Acts 18: 18 Now Paul still remained there a good while, then bid farewell to the brothers, and sailed away for Syria, and Priscilla and Aquila were with him. He had his hair cut off in Cenchrea, for he had taken a vow.

Priscilla and Aquila continue on with Paul.

We have no information about Timothy and Silas here but he still has companions listed. They are active.

1 Corinthians 16:19 The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, together with the church that is in their house.

Paul's Vow

Acts 18:18 Now Paul still remained there a good while, then bid farewell to the brothers, and sailed away for Syria, and Priscilla and Aquila were with him. He had his hair cut off in Cenchrea, for he had taken a vow.

We have no good information about this vow. It doesn't appear to be the vow of a Nazarite because he has shaved it at Cenchrea,

Numbers 6:18 And the Nazarite shall shave the head of his separation at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and shall take the hair of the head of his separation, and put it in the fire which is under the sacrifice of the peace offerings.

Ephesus

Acts 18: 19 And he arrived in Ephesus, and he left those two there; but he, having entered into the synagogue, reasoned with the Jews. 20 And when they asked him to remain with them for a longer time, he did not consent, 21 but bid farewell to them saying, "I must by all means keep this coming feast which is in Jerusalem; but I will return again to you, God willing." And he put out to sea from Ephesus.

Acts 16:6 Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia,

Mission trip 2 complete.

Acts 18: 22 And having gone down to Caesarea, and having gone up and greeted the church, he went down to Antioch.

