

Acts 18:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when Paul was now about to open his mouth, Gallio said unto the Jews, If it were a matter of wrong or wicked lewdness, O ye Jews, reason would that I should bear with you:

Analysis

Gallio's refusal - 'If it were a matter of wrong or wicked lewdness, O ye Jews, I would reason with you' - distinguished criminal from religious matters. His judicial restraint protected Paul while establishing precedent for Roman treatment of Christianity.

Historical Context

Gallio's ruling that Christianity was an internal Jewish dispute effectively protected it from prosecution throughout his jurisdiction. This precedent influenced subsequent Roman policy.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How did Gallio's ruling benefit the spread of Christianity?
2. What does this teach about God's use of secular authorities for His purposes?

Interlinear Text

μέλλοντος δὲ τοῦ Παύλου ἀνοίγειν τὸ στόμα εἶπεν
was now about **And** G3588 **when Paul** **to open** G3588 **his mouth** **said**
G3195 G1161 G3972 G455 G4750 G2036

ὁ Γαλλίων πρὸς τοὺς Ἰουδαῖοι Εἰ μὲν οὖν ἦν
G3588 **Gallio** **unto** G3588 **the Jews** **If** G3303 G3767 **it were**
G1058 G4314 G2453 G1487 G2258

ἀδίκημά τι ἢ ῥαδιούργημα πονηρόν ὧ Ἰουδαῖοι
matter of wrong **a** **or** **lewdness** **wicked** **O** **the Jews**
G92 G5100 G2228 G4467 G4190 G5599 G2453

κατὰ λόγον ἂν ἤνεσχόμην ὑμῶν·
reason G3056 **would** **that I should bear** **with you**
G2596 G302 G430 G5216