

Acts 18:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But if it be a question of words and names, and of your law, look ye to it; for I will be no judge of such matters.

Analysis

'But if it be a question of words and names, and of your law, look ye to it.' Gallio recognized the dispute as theological, not criminal. 'I will be no judge of such matters' established that Roman courts wouldn't adjudicate Jewish religious controversies.

Historical Context

Roman officials generally avoided involvement in religious disputes they considered superstitious. Gallio's dismissal freed Christianity from legal harassment in Achaia.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How should believers understand the proper relationship between civil and religious authority?
2. What does Gallio's attitude teach about secular authorities' limitations in religious matters?

Interlinear Text

εἰ δὲ ζήτημά ἔστιν περὶ λόγου καὶ ὄνομάτων καὶ
if But a question it be of words and names and
G1487 G1161 G2213 G2076 G4012 G3056 G2532 G3686 G2532

νόμου τοῦ καθ' ὑμᾶς ὅψεσθε αὐτοί· κριτὴς γὰρ ἐγὼ
law of your look ye G846 judge to it for I
G3551 G3588 G2596 G5209 G3700 G2923 G1063 G1473

τούτων οὐ βούλομαι εἶναι
of such no will be G1511
G5130 G3756 G1014

Additional Cross-References

Acts 25:19 (Parallel theme): But had certain questions against him of their own superstition, and of one Jesus, which was dead, whom Paul affirmed to be alive.

Acts 23:29 (Word): Whom I perceived to be accused of questions of their law, but to have nothing laid to his charge worthy of death or of bonds.

Acts 25:11 (Parallel theme): For if I be an offender, or have committed any thing worthy of death, I refuse not to die: but if there be none of these things whereof these accuse me, no man may deliver me unto them. I appeal unto Caesar.

Matthew 27:24 (Parallel theme): When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it.

1 Timothy 6:4 (Word): He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings,