

Series: Acts  
Lesson #80  
Title: LOOK YE  
Scripture: Acts 18: 12-17  
Date: August 13, 2009  
Place: Sovereign Grace Baptist Church in Princeton, New Jersey

**Acts 18: 12: And when Gallio was the deputy of Achaia, the Jews made insurrection with one accord against Paul, and brought him to the judgment seat, 13: Saying, This *fellow* persuadeth men to worship God contrary to the law.**

Gallio's position was one of great authority. The deputy was much like our governors of state. As the deputy he was the supreme judge over civil matters.

The case the Jews presented to Gallio against Paul was "This fellow persuadeth men to worship God contrary to the law." Roman law gave the Jews freedom to worship as they pleased as long as nothing was done against Caesar. Roman law made no distinction between Judaism and Christianity at this time.

The Jews wanted their own religious freedoms but were in hopes that a distinction would be made against Christianity in Roman law so that the gospel would be silenced by the government. But Gallio was well aware of the Jews making insurrection in this manner. He had been sent here from Rome. We saw in verse 2 that Aquilla and Priscilla were in Corinth

Acts 18: 2:... (because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome:)

But, to Gallio, (and as far as Roman law was concerned) this was merely a disagreement within the Jews religion and he cared for none of it, nor would he be pulled into using his bench as a matter of judgment in such matters.

**Acts 18: 14: 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: 15: 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*. 16: And he drave them from the judgment seat. 17: Then all the Greeks took Sosthenes, the chief ruler of the synagogue, and beat *him* before the judgment seat. And Gallio cared for none of those things.**

Gallio not only dismissed the case but he shamed them for not judging of these matters amongst themselves. When the court was adjourned Gallio had the Jews driven out. It appears that verse 17 may mean that Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, was so unruly before the judgment seat that Sosthenes had to be actually struck by those who were in charge of clearing the court.

## **I. SANCTIFY GOD AND BE READY TO GIVE ACCOUNT**

**Acts 18: 14: And when Paul was now about to open *his* mouth,**

Paul was opening his mouth to declare before Gallio and all who were present, the gospel he had been preaching before them all.

1 Peter 3:14: But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy *are ye*: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; 15: But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and *be* ready always to *give*

an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:  
(expound this scripture)

Sanctify the Lord God where? In your hearts. Be ready always to give an answer to every man of what? A reason of the hope that is in you. With meekness and fear toward whom? Look at verse 14: Be not afraid of the terror of men, neither be troubled, but sanctify the Lord God in your hearts--meekness toward men in as regards a haughty spirit, but primarily meekness and fear toward God as it regards the truth and our safety before men..

When it comes to power and politics and numbers of men on his side, Paul is no match for these Jews or for Gallio. Do you think he is going to rise up with a haughty spirit? Paul stands here like a little child who trusts that his father is all his protection. But such meekness and fear toward God is what sanctified the Lord in his heart. It was what gave him boldness to speak. It was made him ready to answer.

Paul had the word of the Lord Jesus Christ the Son of God (v9, 10.)

But before he could speak the Lord God proves his faithfulness.

**Acts 18: 14: And when Paul was now about to open *his* mouth, Gallio said unto the Jews,**

The flood of the accuser came at Paul but God used the mouth of Gallio to swallow it up.

Revelation 12: 15: And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. 16: And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.

The Lord Jesus used Roman law to protect Paul and to keep the gospel in Corinth.

I Corinthians 1: 9: God *is* faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **II. THOUGH CHARGED BE NOT CHARGEABLE**

**Acts 18: 12: And when Gallio was the deputy of Achaia, the Jews made insurrection with one accord against Paul, and brought him to the judgment seat, 13: Saying, This *fellow* persuadeth men to worship God contrary to the law.**

Later in Acts, when Paul answers for himself he covers all areas in which the Jews accused him of being against the law.

Acts 25:8: While he answered for himself, Neither against the law of the Jews, neither against the temple, nor yet against Caesar, have I offended any thing at all.

Paul was a sinner in his flesh, in the old man born of Adam's seed.

I Timothy 1: 15: This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

Romans 7:18: For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not.

Ephesians 3: 8: Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

But in Christ Jesus, by faith in Christ, Paul could say with all certainty that he had not offended the law of the Jews nor the temple. Paul stood before the judgment seat of men, but before the judgment seat of God, no charge could be laid against him.

Romans 8: 1: *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. 2: For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. 3: For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: 4: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Furthermore, listen to what Gallio said:

**Acts 18: 14:...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:...**

Paul was not being charged with a matter of wrong (a misdemeanor). Nor was Paul being charged with wicked lewdness( a serious crime.) If the Jews would have had one, the Jews would have charged him with it but they had nothing.

Acts 23: 29: [the ruler said of Paul] 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...24: 16: [Paul said of himself] And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and *toward* men.

We may be charged, we may be charged falsely, but may God strengthen us so that we are never found chargeable.

### **III. KNOW THAT THE LORD HIMSELF SHALL DEAL WITH OUR ACCUSERS**

**Acts 18: 15: 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*.**

Gallio shows his contempt for them because these kinds of questions are what religion strives over. It was what the Jews spent their time in. But as the Jews bring this charge against Paul before the judgment seat, the judge charges them to do exactly what they were guilty of not doing..."LOOK YE". IF IT BE A QUESTION OF THE WORD...LOOK YE; IF IT BE A QUESTION OF NAMES...LOOK YE; IF IT BE A QUESTION OF YOUR LAW...LOOK YE

**Acts 18: 15: But if it be a question of words**

Paul reasoned with them out of the scriptures...LOOK YE!

**But if it be a question of...names**

Paul declared the name of Jesus of Nazareth. This Jesus of Nazareth is called Jesus because he is the Savior, the Messiah, the Christ of God. He is our Hosea who loved his bride and redeemed her when she was so

despised no one else would even bid on her; he is our Joshua who delivers each of his Israel into the promised land; his name shall be called Jesus for he shall save his people from their sins--LOOK YE!

This Jesus of Nazareth is the one who shall be called Wonderful because he is the Miracle Child. He is the Seed of woman promised in the garden, who bruised the serpents head; he is the promised Seed of Abraham born without man's help of whom Isaac was a type. That Holy Thing, conceived of the Holy Ghost in the womb of a virgin called Wonderful--LOOK YE!

This Jesus of Nazareth is named Counsellor. He is the Counsellor in whom the three in One rested all God's purpose and sealed it in eternity. He is the Counsellor to whom all power in heaven and earth is given so that he turns all mens' plans to accomplish his purpose. This Counsellor works his counsel in the heart, in Spirit, turning the hearts of even wicked kings whithersoever he will, who casts down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought of his redeemed to obey him through his gospel through faith--LOOK YE!

This Jesus of Nazareth is the Mighty God, the Warrior God, the Champion God, the All-Victorious, All Mighty, Omnipotent God, who does as he pleases.

Daniel 4:35: And all the inhabitants of the earth *are* reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and *among* the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?

LOOK YE!

This Jesus of Nazareth is called the Everlasting Father

1 Corinthians 15:22: For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive....45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam *was made* a quickening spirit....47: The first man *is* of the earth, earthy: the second man *is* the Lord from heaven....49: And as we have borne the image of the earthy, (full of sin, corrupt, conceived in sin) we shall also bear the image of the heavenly (holy, harmless, undefiled, incorruptible, everlasting)--LOOK YE!

The name of this Jesus of Nazareth is the Prince of Peace-

Ezekiel 34:24: And I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David a prince among them; I the LORD have spoken *it*. 25:...my servant David *shall be* their prince for ever.

This Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah Prince; the KING of kings and LORD of lords, who David called his Lord

Philippians 2: 9: Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; 11: And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father--LOOK YE!

Gallio said, **15: But if it be a question of words and names, and YOUR LAW.**

First, Paul declared the righteousness of God which God requires in his law. They imagined that God only requires an outward conformity to the law. They thought sin was merely in things you do or don't do.

God requires a righteous nature. Sinners must be born again, conceived of incorruptible seed. God requires heart obedience, in thought, word and deed from the cradle to the grave. God requires that the soul that sinneth, it shall surely die. The righteousness of God requires that all sinners must die.

Thus Paul pronounced no man righteous by the law. He declared all their works of righteousness as filthy rags. Paul declared that all men, Jew and Gentile have sinned and come short of the glory of God." LOOK YE!

Secondly, Paul declared the righteousness of God in the gospel of Christ. Only Jesus of Nazareth is the Holy Man, born of the Holy Spirit. Only Jesus of Nazareth is the Righteous Man from his mother's womb, holy in character as well as in thought, word and deed. Only Jesus of Nazareth is the Lamb of God. He who knew no sin could not die, but with the sin of God's Israel imputed to him he willingly gave himself to the justice of God, died to the law and so did all who were in him.

But those who trust him alone have the righteousness of God--Christ Jesus, the Son of God the Son of man is the Righteousness of God--he is the LORD our Righteousness.

Romans 4:6: Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, 7: *Saying*, Blessed *are* they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. 8: Blessed *is* the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.

**Acts 18: 15: But if it be a question of words and names, and your law, look ye to it; for I will be no judge of such *matters*.**

This *would* turn for a testimony against Gallio himself

**Acts 18: 17:...And Gallio cared for none of those things.**

Not only did he turn a blind eye to the ruler of the synagogue being beaten, but he turned a blind eye to the gospel of Christ. The Jews and this deputy, Gallio, and even the Greeks who were present--all of them ultimately had one idea in their heart!

Psalms 2: 1: Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? 2: The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, *saying*, 3: Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. 4: He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. 5: Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. 6: Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.

This king whom God has set in his holy hill of Zion is Christ Jesus who said to his disciples:

Matthew 10: 17: But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; 18: And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles.

## CONCLUSION

As I thought of this judgment seat before whom they all stood and on which Gallio resided, it occurred to me that everyone that was here present on that day will all stand before another judgment seat--the bema of Christ.

2 Corinthians 5: 10: For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad.

That day in Corinth, at this earthly bar of judgment, the Jews thought they were doing a good thing for the glory of God. Gallio *did* a good thing by not slighting the earthly law of Rome or siding with the Jews. Each trusted their works for had they not, they would have confessed Christ, trusted his person and his works, gloried in his person and his works, put their hope in his person and his works. Instead they trusted in their own works. They each spoke against God, his Christ and his ambassador from a heart full of enmity against God and love for self. Neither the Jews nor Gallio bowed to Christ that day. If they left this world with the same enmity in their hearts, they will stand before the judgment seat of Christ and they are those that will be judged out the books.

Revelation 20:12: And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. 13: And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14: And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15: And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

But what of this Sosthenes who led the charge that day? He probably thought he was doing the very best work out of all the people. Truthfully, he could be said to be the worst of the bunch that day. He was rebelling against God in the name of God as the chief ruler of the people.

Concerning that other book, called the "book of life"

Revelation 21: 27: And there shall in no wise enter into [holy Jerusalem] any thing that defileth, neither *whatsoever* worketh abomination, or *maketh* a lie:

The opposite of that which defileth, and worketh abomination, or a lie is found in the next phrase:

Revelation 21: 27:...but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

This is the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. Salvation is not gained by politics, not by legislating religious freedoms, not by keeping the Ten Commandments, not by ceremonies, not by having a form of religion or keeping the traditions of your fathers, no matter if you are a Sosthenes.

You see, salvation is by the grace of God through faith in Christ Jesus the Lord. Grace takes a Saul of Tarsus and makes him a saint, holy and separate from sinners in Christ Jesus; grace takes a Sosthenes from ruling in the synagogue of Satan, from opposing God, his Christ and his ambassadors and in power says to him in his heart--LOOK YE! When God makes you look you will find that you are washed, that you are sanctified, that you are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. If this Sosthenes is the same as the one Paul mentions when he writes back to Corinth, (I think it probably is), Paul says:

I Corinthians 1: 1: Paul, called *to be* an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes *our* brother, 2: Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called *to be* saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

If God makes you look then one day you will stand with Paul and Sosthenes and Crispus and Stephen and hear the Judge of heaven and earth say,

Matthew 25:34:...Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: