

December 3, 2023  
Acts 18:12-22  
"If God Wills"

## PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Paul's return voyage began down on the southeastern port of Cenchrea, this was south of Corinth. After a 500 mile voyage they reach Caesarea on the Palestinian coast, the port city of Jerusalem since the time of Herod the Great. From there he went to Jerusalem, some 65 miles southeast. Then he went down to Antioch Syria some 300 miles north. Paul would go back to Ephesus and stay there with them for three years. Just think of the providence of God in all of this. There were so many dangers, toils, and snares along this incredibly long journey. Paul knew he would only be back if it was His will. Meditate on the sovereignty of God in your life.

Gallio was one of three brothers. Gallio's younger brother, Seneca, was a poet, Stoic philosopher, educator of Nero, and a statesman. There was a third brother, Melas, all three were of weak physical constitution, and all three were compelled to commit suicide by Nero. For years there was much debate about the legitimacy of Gallio serving as proconsul. Except for Luke's writing here there seemed to be no record of his serving in this capacity, until . . . In 1909 a whitish grey limestone inscription was found near Delphi. On this inscription of stone was chiseled a letter from emperor Claudius that named Gallio as proconsul! From this evidence we have the exact dates of his being in office. The date was May 1, 52-May 1, 53. This is important because as do all archeological discoveries, it proves the Bible to be accurate. Furthermore, it gives us a definite timeline for the travels of Paul during this 2nd missionary journey. Gleaned from *Lenski*.

The appearance of Paul before Gallio is important because, (1) It established a precedent for the manner in which Roman leaders should consider charges against Christianity brought before them. (2) The mention of Gallio is a key reference point to determine the date of Paul's work in Corinth and therefore the entire Pauline chronology. Gleaned from, *John B. Polhill*.

This was huge and why Luke included it. If Gallio had ruled Paul to be guilty provincial governors everywhere would have taken this precedent and would have placed severe restrictions on Paul's ministry everywhere he went! Huge decision for the good of the proclamation of the gospel. This would have put up a roadblock of opposition to the Christian movement underway. Rome's policy for both Jews and Christians would change in the 60s, but for about a decade to come there would be no issue with this type of argument.

### **Application:**

God is sovereign over His creation. He sets the boundaries and times of nations. He uses human government to accomplish His will among mankind. **Proverbs 3:4-5** sets a great example of how to accomplish God's will for our lives. Meditate on letting God direct your paths. Understand that to acknowledge Him in all your ways is the key to say, Lord willing . . .

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