

**Episode:** One-Hit Wonders No. 3

**Narrator:** Gallio

**Primary Scriptures:** Acts 18:12-17

**Story Summary:** Paul is tried before Gallio

**Location:** Corinth, Greece

**Time:** Circa 52 AD

**Suggested Memory Scriptures:** Acts 18:15

Paul starts his Second Missionary Journey in about 50 AD. He eventually arrives in Corinth after teaching in Asia and Macedonia. There he meets Priscilla and Aquila, and seemingly works with them for a period of time. He lives in Corinth for about the last eighteen months of the journey.

His time in Corinth was very fruitful. He established a church, converted Priscilla and Aquila, and wrote 1 and 2 Thessalonians. He also converted two leaders of the synagogue named Crispus and Sosthenes, as well as other Jews and God Fearers who worshiped at the synagogue.

The Jews got fed up with Paul and brought him before Gallio, the proconsul of Achaia (Greece). They charged Paul with teaching about God in a way contrary to the law, but Gallio chose to interpret the charges to mean that Paul's teaching was contrary to the Laws of Moses, not the laws of Rome. Therefore, he dismissed the charges because that was not his problem; he didn't care about the infighting of the Jews concerning their religious interpretations.

It's not clear if Gallio meant to establish a precedent with his ruling, but it did establish the understanding that Christianity was a Jewish sect according to Roman law. Therefore, Christianity was due the same privileges the Jews had received from the Roman government. The most important of these was the exemption from worshiping the emperor. This exemption would have been very valuable to the fledging religion that was clearly against worshiping the emperor or any other false god.

If Gallio had chosen to interpret the charge of the Jews as Paul teaching against the laws of Rome, he may very well have found Paul guilty, which could have sparked an interest in persecuting the Christians, a persecution that would have been supported by the Jewish leaders, of course.

Unfortunately, taking advantage of the Jewish privileges would be valuable for only about a decade and a half. In 66 AD, the Jews rebelled against Rome, which resulted in Rome retaliating by destroying the Temple and killing many Jews. From that point on, it was important for the Christians to distinguish their religion from that of the Jews.