

# Ministering in the Shadow of the Most High

Acts 18:12-21

## **Introduction:**

*Context: Paul has seen the providence of God in the founding of the Corinthian church.*

v.12 But Satan is persistent. Paul's enemies seek to turn the Roman government against him.

v.13 A charge against him is brought before Gallio.

The charge is the Christianity is in opposition to Judaism thus *not* an approved religion.

This happened before in Philippi and so one can imagine what is going through Paul's mind.

v.14-16 But Gallio interrupts the proceedings

He refuses to distinguish between these Jewish divisions and thus Christianity is given Roman sanction as a legal religion.

Point: The Jews' plan backfired.

v.17 And even worse Sosthenes the synagogue leader who brought the charge is beaten.

And Gallio says "who cares"

Point: This is what the Jews hoped would happen to Paul but again it backfired.

And worse still, Sosthenes became a Christian through all of this (1 Cor. 1:1), which means that two synagogue officials have now become Christians.

Point: The elect, the "many people," may be who you would least expect.

v.18 For "many days" Paul stays and no one can oppose him.

Paul leaves for Antioch to his home church but he leaves with Priscilla and Aquila, future leaders in Ephesus and he leaves the Corinthian church with two synagogue leaders as Christian leaders in the church.

A "vow" Why did Paul make a Nazirite vow?

v.21 "If God wills" Paul has learned of the direction of Christ our risen head.

## **Conclusion:**