

THE ARGUMENT OF S. IOHNS THREE EPISTLES.

Of S. Iohn was said in the *Argument before his Ghospel*. Now here follow his three Epistles: one to al Catholikes (though some ancient doe call it, *Ad Parthos*;) the other two being very short, vnto a certaine Ladie, & to one Gaius. The effect of al is, to witnes vnto them the certaintie of the Catholike faith, & to exhort them to continue still in it: also to loue the Catholike Church, and so, neither to become heretikes, nor Schismatikes: but rather to auoid all such, as the fore-runners of Antichrist, and to remember, that Catholikes need not to goe to schoole to any such Maisters, hauing at home in the Catholike Church, the doctrine of the Holy Ghost himself, who was giuen to the Church visibly in the beginning, to lead her into all truth, and to continue with her for euer. Therefore he saith: *That which you haue heard from the beginning, let it abide in you.* Likewise a litle after, *v. 27.* and *ep. 2. v. 6.* *This is the commandement, that as you haue heard from the beginning, you walke in the same, because many seducers are gone out into the world.* and *v. 8. & 9.*

And not only thus in general, but also in particular he expreffeth the points which the heretikes did then call in question. Some were about Christ himself. For they denied that IESVS is Christ, that he is the very Sonne of God, that he is incarnate. *Ep. 1. c. 2. v. 22.* and *Ep. 2. v. 7.* And against such it was that he wrote his Ghospel also, as he there signifieth *Iohn. 20. v. 31.* Other points are about our iustification, against only faith, and for good workes, as also S. Aug. noted, whose words were cited before. Hereupon he saith: *If we say we haue societie with God, and walke in darkenes, we lie.* *Ep. 1. c. 1.* Againe, *He that faith he knoweth God, and keepeth not his commandements, is a liar.* Againe, *This is the charitie of God, that we keep his commandements,*

*Higinus ep. 1.
to. 1. Con-
cil. Auguft.
li. 2. Euang.
quæft. q. 39.*

*1. Iohn. 2.
v. 42.*

*De fid. &
op. c. 14.*

1. Iohn. 2. & 5.

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and his commandements are not heauie. Finally, Children let no man seduce you. He that doth iuftice, is iuft, euen as he is iuft. Ep. 1. c. 3. v. 7. 8. 9. Likewise c. 2. v. 29. and indeed in al the three Epiftles throughout, he doth inculcate good workes & keeping the commandements, againft the herefie of only faith.