

Chapter 05

They that loue God, muft loue his natural Sonne IESVS, and his finnes by adoption, & keep his commandements, which to the regenerate are light. 4. But not, vnles they continue in the Catholike faith, namely of this article, that IESVS is the Sonne of God, and therefore able to giue vs life euerlafting, 14. and al our petitions 16. and our praiers for al our Brethren that finne not vnto death, dying in their mortal finnes by impenitence. Laft of al, he warneth them not to communicate with Idols.

Whofoeuer beleueth that IESVS is Chrif, is borne of God. And euery one that loueth him which begat, loueth him alfo which was borne of him. ² In this we know that we loue the children of God: when as we loue God, and keep his commandements. ³ For this is the charitie of God, that we keep his commandements: and ⁴his commandements are not heauy. ⁴ Because al that is borne of God, ouercommeth the world: And this is the victorie which ouercommeth the world, our faith. ⁵ Who is he that ouercommeth the world, but he that beleueth that IESVS is the Sonne of God? ⁶ This is he that came by water & bloud IESVS Chrif: not in water only, but in water and bloud. And it is the Spirit which teftifieth, that Chrif is the truth.

Mat. 11, 30.

1. Cor. 15, 57.

⁷ For there be ⁸three which giue teftimonie in heauen, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghoft. And thefe three be one. ⁸ And there be three which giue teftimonie in earth: the fpirit, water, and bloud and thefe three be one. ⁹ If we receiue the teftimonie of men, the teftimonie of God is greater. Because this is the teftimonie of God which is greater, that he hath teftified of his Sonne. ¹⁰ He that beleueth in the Sonne of God, hath the teftimonie of God in himfelf. He that beleueth not the Sonne, maketh him a lier: becaufe he beleueth not in the teftimonie which God hath teftified of his Sonne. ¹¹ And this is the teftimonie, that God hath giuen vs life euerlafting. And this life is in his Sonne. ¹² He that

Io. 3, 36.

hath the Sonne, hath life. He that hath not the Sonne of God, hath not life.

13 These things I write to you, that you may know that you haue eternal life which beleue in the name of the Sonne of God. 14 And this is the confidence which we haue toward him: that, whatfoeuer we fhall aske according to his wil, he heareth vs. 15 And 'we know' that he heareth vs whatfoeuer we fhall aske: we know that we haue the petitions which we request of him.

Mt. 7, 7.
21, 22.
1. Io. 3, 22.
if we know

16 He that knoweth his brother to finne a finne not to death, let him aske, and life fhall be giuen him, finning not to death. There is a finne to death: for that I say not that any man aske. 17 All iniquitie, is finne. And there is a finne 'to death.' 18 We know that euery one which is borne of God, finneth not: but the generation of God preferueth him, and the wicked one toucheth him not. 19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world is fet in wickednesse. 20 And we know that the Sonne of God commeth: and he hath giuen vs vnderstanding, that we may know the true God, & may be in his true Sonne. This is the true God, & life euerlasting. 21 My little children, keep your felues from Idols. Amen.

ἀδικία
not to death.

Luc. 24, 45.

ἀπὸ τῶν
εἰδώλων

ANNOTATIONS

3 His commandements are not heauie.) How can the Protestants say that Gods commandements can not possibly be fulfilled or kept in this life, seeing that the Apostle saith, *they be not heauie*: and Christ saith, *his yoke is sweete, and his burden light*? See for the full vnderstanding of this place, S. Aug. *de perfectione iustitiæ c. 10.* The heretikes in fauour of their foresaid error, rather translate, *His commandements are not grieuous, then, are not heauie.*

βαρεῖαι

The commandements possible to be kept.

Heret. translation.

7 Three which giue testimony.) An expresse place for the distinction of three Persons, and the vnitie of nature and essence in the B. Trinitie; against the Arians and other like Heretikes, who haue in diuers Ages found themselves so pressed with these plaine Scriptures, that they haue (as it is thought) altered and corrupted the text both in Greek and Latin many waies: euen as the Protestants handle those textes that make against them. But because we are not now troubled with Arianisme so much as with

Three persons & one substance in the B. Trinitie.

The Arians corrupt the text of Scripture.

Caluinifme, we need not ftand vpon the varietie of reading or expofition of this paffage. See S. Hierom, in his *epiftle put before the 7. Canonical or Catholike Epiftles.*

16 A finne to death.) A finne to death is another thing then a mortal finne. For it is that mortal finne only, whereof a man is neuer penitent before his death, or in which he continueth til death, and dieth in it. *I affirme* (faith S. Auguftin *de correptione & gratia c. 12.*) *that a finne to death is to leaue faith working by charitie euen til death.* So likewife in the words before, *a finne not to death*, is not that which we cal a venial finne, but any that a man committeth and continueth not therein til death.

What is a finne to death.

16 For that I fay not.) If the finne to death whereof he fpeaketh, be the finne wherin a man dieth without repentance, according to S. Auguftines wordes before rehearfed: then the praier which he fpeaketh of, muft needs be praier for the dead.

Praier for the dead.

Becaufe he fpeaketh of praying, or not praying, for them that died in deadly finne, exhorting vs to pray, and encouraging vs to doe it with confidence to be heard, if we pray for them that departed this life not in deadly finne: and contrariwife in a māner diffuading & difcouraging vs from praying for fuch as continued in wickednes euen til their liues end. And S. Auguftin fetteth downe the Churches praetife agreeable to the Apoftles meaning, *li. 21. c. 24. de Ciuit. Dei. If there be any* (faith he) *that perfift til death in impenitencie of hart, doth the Church now pray for them, that is, for the foules of them that fo are departed?* So faith he. And this is the caufe, that *Concilium Bracharenfe primum cap. 34.* forbideth to pray for fuch as die in defperation, or kil themfelues: and the reafon, why the Church forbearth to pray for Heretikes that die in their herefie, or mainteine herefie vnto death and by their death.

Some of the dead may not be praied for.

And that the place is moft properly or only meant of praying for the departed, this conuinceth, that neither the Church nor any man is dehorted here from praying for any finner yet liuing, nor for the remiffion of any finne in this life: al finnes (of what fort foever) being pardonable, fo long as the committers of them be in cafe and ftate to repent: as they be fo long as they be in this world. And we fee that the Church praieith, and is often heard, for Heretikes, Iewes, Turkes, Apoftataes, and what other infidels or il mē foever, during their liues. And it is great blafphemie that the Caluiniftes vtter vpon this place: to wit, that Apoftafie & certaine other finnes of the reprobate, can not be forgiuen at al in this life. Which they hold, only to auoid the fequele of praying for the dead vpon thefe words of S. Iohn. Befides that they muft take vpon them prefumptuoufly, to know and difcerne of God's fecrets, who be reprobate, and who be not, and according to that, pray for fome, and not for other-fome: al which is moft wicked and abfurd prefumption.

It is proued that the Apoftle fpeaketh of praying for the dead.

The Caluinifts blafphemie, to auoid this fenfe of the Apoftle.

As for their allegation, that S. Ieremie the Prophet was forbidden to pray for the Iewes, & warned that he should not be heard, *Chap. 4. 11. 14.* there is great difference. Firft he had a reuelation by the words of God, that they would continue in their wickednes, as we haue not of any certaine perfon, whereof S. Iohn here fpeaketh. Secondly, Ieremie was not forbidden to pray for the remifsion of their finnes, nor had denial to be heard therein for any man's particular cafe, whereof the Apoftle here fpeaketh: but he was told that they should not efcape the temporal punishment & affliction which he had defigned for them, and that he would not heare him therein.

21 From idols.) It is fo knowne a treacherie of Heretikes to tranflate *idola* images (as here and in a number of places, fpecially of the English Bible printed the yeare 1562) that we need not much to ftand vpon it. As this alfo is feen to al the world, that they doe it of purpofe to feduce the poore ignorant people, and to make them thinke, that whatfoeuer in the Scriptures is fpoken againft the idols of the Gentils (which the Prophet calleth *Simulacra Gentium*) is meant of pictures, facred images, & holy memories of Chrift and his Saints. Againft fuch feducers the fecond facred Council of Nice, called the feuenth Synod, decreeth thus *Act. 4. pag. 122. Quicumque fententias sacre scripturæ de Idolis, contra venerandas imagines addueunt, anathema. Qui venerandas imagines idola appellant, anathema. Qui dicunt quod Chriftiani adorant imagines vt Deos, anathema.* that is, *Anathema to al them that bring the sentences of holy Scripture touching Idols, againft the venerable images. Anathema to them that cal the venerable images, Idols. Anathema to them that fay, Chriftians adore images as Gods.*

Now in their later tranflation the Heretikes perceiuing that the world feeth their vnhoneft dealing, corrected themfelues in fome places, and in this place haue put, *idols*, in the text, but to giue the people a watch-word that the Churches images are to be comprifed in the word, *idols*, they haue put, *images*, in the margent.

But concerning this matter, it is moft eident that neither euery Idol is an image, nor euery image an idol: and that, howfoeuer the origine or etymologie of the word, *idol*, may be taken in the Greek, yet both the words & the things be in truth and by the vfe of al tongues, farre differing. The great dragon that the Babylonians adored (*Dan. 14.*) was an idol, but not an image: the Cherubins in Salomons Temple were images, but not idols: and the face of the Queene in her coine or els-where, as Cæfar's face vpon the coine that Chrift called for, is an image, but not an idol: and the Heretikes dare not tranflate that text of Scripture thus, *whofe idol is this fuperfcription?* nor cal the Queenes image, the idol of the Queene: nor Chrift, the idol of his Father: nor woman, the idol of the man: nor man, the idol of God. Al which in Scripture be named images for al that, and be fo indeed, and not idols. Which

Heret. tranflation againft facred images.

The 2. Council of Nice pronounceth anathema, that is a curfe againft the Caluinifts.

The great difference of idol and image.

Pfal. 113.

Edit. Colon. an. 1567.

The Bible of the yeare 1577.

conuinceth, that the Heretikes be falſe and corrupt tranſlatours in this place and other the like, confounding theſe two words as if they were al one.

But as for the hauing of images or purtraites of holy things, not only in priuate houſes, but alſo in Churches, God himſelf doth warrant vs, who commanded euen the Ieres themſelues (a people moſt prone to idolatrie, and that after he had giuen them a ſpecial precept of not hauing, making, or worshipping of idols) to make the images of Angels (the Cherubins) and that in the foueraigne holieſt place of adoration that was in the Temple, and about the Arke. Yea and in reſpect of which ſacred images partly, they did (as S. Hierom faith *ep. 17. c. 3.*) fo great reuerence to the holy place called *Sancta ſanctorum*. If they then were warranted & commanded to make and haue in fo great reuerence the images of mere ſpirits or Angels, whoſe natural ſhape could not be expreſſed: how much more may we Chriſtians haue and reuerence the images of Chriſt, his B. mother, the Apoſtles and other Saints, being men, whoſe ſhape may be expreſſed? So doth the ſaid Nicene Council argue againſt the Heretikes which at that time were the Aduerſaries of images.

And note here, that eight hundred yeares agoe, they were fraight counted Heretikes, that began to ſpeake againſt images, & that Council was called purpoſely for them, and condemned them for Heretikes, & confirmed the former ancient reuerence and vſe of ſacred images. Which began euen in our Sauours time or litle after, when good religious folke for loue and reuerence made his image, namely the woman that he healed of the bloody fluxe. Which image was alſo approued by miracles, as the Eccleſiaſtical hiſtorie telleth, and namely Eufebius *Eccl. hiſt. li. 7. c. 14.* who alſo witneſſeth that the images of Peter and Paul were in his daies. As you may ſee alſo in S. Aug. (*li. de conſenſ. Euangelift. c. 10.*) that their pictures commonly ſtood together in Rome, euen as at this day. Of our Ladies image ſee S. Gregorie *li. 7. ep. 5. indict. 2. ad Iannar & ep. 53.* in whom alſo (*li. 7. ep. 109.*) you may ſee the true vſe of images, and that they are the books of the vnlearned, and that the people ought to be inſtructed and taught the right vſe of them, euen as at this day good Catholike folke doe vſe them to help and increaſe their deuotion in al Catholike Churches: yea the Lutherans themſelues reſeigne them ftill. S. Damascene wrote three books in defence of ſacred images againſt the foreſaid Heretikes.

Sacred images in Churches, by God's owne warrant.

The 2. Council of Nice was gathered againſt image breakers. The antiquitie of holy images.

The vſe and fruite of holy images.

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