

Chapter 5

To talke of the time of the Refurrection is not neceffarie, but to prepare our felues againft that time fo fodaine, and fo terrible to the vnprepared. 12. He befeecheth the layetie to be obedient, 14. and the Clergie to be vigilant, with many short precepts moe.

And of the times and momentes, Brethren, you need not that we write to you. ² For your felues know perfectly that the day of our Lord fhall come as a theefe in the night. ³ For when they fhall fay, peace & securitie; then fhall fodaine deftruction come vpon them, as the paines to her that is with child, and they fhall not efcape. ⁴ But you, Brethren, are not in darkeneffe; that the fame day may as a theefe ouertake you.

*Mt. 24, 44.
2. Pet. 3, 10.
Apoc. 3, 3.
16, 15.*

⁵ For you are the children of light, and children of the day: we are not of the night nor of darkneffe. ⁶ Therefore let vs not fleep as alfo others: but let vs watch & be sober. ⁷ For they that fleep, fleep in the night; & they that be drunke, be drunke in the night. ⁸ But we that are of the day, are sober, hauing on, the breaft-plate of faith and ^acharitie, and a helmet, the hope of faluation. ⁹ For God hath not appointed vs vnto wrath, but vnto the purchacing of faluation by our Lord IESVS Chrif, ¹⁰ who died for vs: that whether we watch, or fleep, we may liue together with him. ¹¹ For the which caufe comfort one another: and edifie one another, as alfo you doe.

*Efa. 59, 27.
Eph. 6, 17.*

¹² And we befeech you, Brethren, that you wil know them that labour among you, and that gouerne you in our Lord and admonifh you: ¹³ that you haue them more abundantly in charitie for their worke. Haue peace with them. ¹⁴ And we befeech you, Brethren, admonifh the vnquiet, comfort the weake-minded, beare

^a A Christian man's whole armour is not faith only, but al the three vertues here named.

Pro. 17, 13. vp the weake, be patient to al. ¹⁵ See that none render euil for euil to any man: but alwaies that which is good purfue toward each other, & towards al. ¹⁶ Alwaies reioyce. ¹⁷ ^a)Pray without intermiffion. ¹⁸ In al things giue thankes. For this is the wil of God in Chrift IESVS in al you. ¹⁹ The Spirit extinguiſh not. ²⁰ Prophecies deſpife not. ²¹ But ¹proue al things hold that which is good. ²² From al appearance of euil refraine your felues. ²³ And the God of peace himſelf ſanctifie you in al things: that your whole ſpirit, and foule and body without blame may be preferued in the comming of our Lord IESVS Chrift. ²⁴ He is faithful, that hath called you, who alſo wil doe it. ²⁵ Brethren pray for vs. ²⁶ Salute al the Brethren in a holy kiffe. ²⁷ I adiure you by our Lord that this epiftle be read to al the holy Brethren. ²⁸ The grace of our Lord IESVS Chrift be with you. Amen.

ANNOTATIONS

21 But proue.) Though we may not extinguiſh the ſpirit, nor contemne the Prophets, yet we muſt beware we be not deceiued by giuing too light credit to euery one that vanteth himſelf of the ſpirit, as Arch-heretikes euer did. We muſt trie them by the doctrine of the Apoftles and the Spirit of the Catholike Church, which can not beguile vs.

Not rashly to credit euery ſpirit.

^a To deſire eternal life of him that only can giue it, is to pray without intermiffion: but becauſe that deſire is oftē by worldly cares cooled, certaine houres & times of vocal praier were appointed. See *S. Aug. ep. 121. ad Probam.*