

Chapter 10

Against the false Apostles granting the infirmities of his person, he doth notwithstanding set out the power of his Apostleship, 12. reprehending them also for challenging to themselves the praise of other mens labours.

And I Paul myself beseech you by the mildness and modestie of Christ, who in presence indeed am humble among you, but absent am bold on you. ² But I beseech you, that being present I need not be bold by that confidence wherewith I am thought to be bold against some: which thinke vs as though we walke according to the flesh. ³ For walking in the flesh, we warre not according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal: but mightie to God vnto the destruction of munitions, destroying counsels, ⁵ and all loftinesse extolling itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captiuitie all vnderstanding vnto the obedience of Christ, ⁶ and hauing in a readinesse to reuenge all disobedience, when your obedience shall be fulfilled. ⁷ See the things that are according to appearance. If any man haue confidence in himself, that he is Christ's: let him thinke this againe with himself, that as he is Christ's, so we also. ⁸ For and if I should glorie some-what more of our power, which our Lord hath giuen vs vnto edification and not to your destruction; I shall not be ashamed. ⁹ But that I may not be thought as it were to terrifie you by epistles (¹⁰ for his epistles indeed, say they, are fore and vehement; but his bodily presence weake & his speech contemptible) ¹¹ let him this thinke that is such a one, that such as we are in word by epistles, absent; such also we are indeed, present. ¹² For we dare not match or compare our selves with certaine, that commend themselves: but we measure our selves in our selves, & compare our selves to our selves. ¹³ But we will not glorie about our measure: but according to the measure of the rule, which God hath measured to vs, a measure to reach euẽ vnto you. ¹⁴ For not, as though we reached not vnto you, doe we extend

ἐλπίδα αὐξάνουμένης τῆς πίστεως ὑμῶν

Ier. 9, 23.

ourfelues beyond. For we are come as farre as to you in the Ghospel of Chrif. ¹⁵ Not glorying aboute meafure in other mens labours: but hauing hope of your faith increafing, to be magnified in you according to our Rule aboundātly, ¹⁶ yea vnto thofe places that are beyond you, to euāgelize, not in another man's Rule, to glorie in thofe things that are prepared before. ¹⁷ But he that glorieth, let him glorie in our Lord. ¹⁸ For not he that commendeth himfelf, the fame is approued; but whom God commendeth.

ANNOTATIONS

4 Weapons.) He meaneth the ample fpiritual and Apoftolical power giuen by Chrif for the punifhment of falfe Apoftles, Heretikes, and rebelles to God's Church, who are here noted fpecially by pride, and infolence (which is the proper marke of fuch fellowes) to extol themfelues aboute the meafure of the fcience of God, which confifteth in humble obedience to the faith and the Preachers of the fame.

Punifhing of Heretikes.

Their pride.

6 To reuenge.) You may fee hereby, that the fpiritual power of Bifhops is not only in preaching the Ghospel, and fo by perfuafion and exhortation only (as fome Heretikes hold) to remit or retaine finnes, but that it hath authoritie to punifh, iudge, and condemne Heretikes and other like rebelles: which power one of the principal rebelles of this time being conuincid by the euidence of the place, acknowledgeth to be grounded vpon Chriftes word, *Whatfoeuer you bind in earth, fhall be bound in Heauen: Mat. 18, 18.* applying alfo the words fpoken to Hieremie *c. 1, 10. Behold I appoint thee ouer Nations and Kingdoms, that thou plant, plucke vp, build, and deftroy,* to confirme & explicate the power Apoftolike here alleaged by S. Paul. Mary they would gladly draw this power from the lawful Succelfours of the Apoftles, to themfelues, their Minifters, and Confiftories, which are nothing els but the fhops and Councils of fedition and al the confpiracies of this time, againft the lawful Princes of the world.

The fpiritual power of Bifhops againft Heretikes.

Heretical Confiftories.

8 Vnto edification.) This great power of the Churches cenfures, fpecially of excommunication, as it was giuen for the good and faluation of the people, fo it muft not be vfed againft the innocent, no nor yet vpon Heretikes or other offenders, but where & when it may by likelihood benefit either the parties, or the people, or may be executed without the hurt of perturbation of the whole Church, as oftentimes it can not be, by reafon of the multitude of offenders. Which caufed the Apoftle here to fignifie that he would not vfe his vttermoft authoritie againft the

Ecclefiastical cenfures (namely Excommunication) when & where to be executed.

Caluin vpon this place.

falle Apoftles which difturbed him; til themfelues were in perfect obedience vnto him, left by punifhing the principal offenders, a greater difturbance & reuolt might fal among the people, if they were not before in perfect obedience.