

He exhortheth them to stand to their old faith, shewing them by examples, that it is damnable not to continue and be constant: 8. inueighing against the lecherie, blasphemie, apostasie, banketing of the heretikes, 14. and that their dānation was long foretold. 19. Catholikes therefore to be vnmoueable, to reprove the obstinate, to recouer al not desperate, to confirme the weake, and to liue themfelues vertuoufly and without mortal sinne, which by God's grace they may doe.

Iude the seruant of IESVS Chrif, and brother of Iames: to them that are in God the Father beloved, and in IESVS Chrif preferred, and called. ² Mercie to you, and peace and charitie be accomplished. ³ My Dearest, taking al care to write vnto you of your common saluation, I thought it neccessarie to write vnto you: beseeching you to contend for the faith once deliuered to the Saints. ⁴ For there are certaine men secretly entred in (which were long agoe prescribed vnto this iudgement) impious, transferring the grace of our God ^a)into riotoufnes, and denying the only Dominatour, & our Lord IESVS Chrif. ⁵ But I wil admonish you, that once know al things, that ^b)IESVS, fauing the people out of the land of Ægipt, secondly destroyed them which beleued not. ⁶ But the Angels which kept not their principalitie, but forooke their owne habitation, he hath referued vnder darkeness in eternal bonds vnto the iudgement of the great day. ⁷ As Sodom and Gomorrhe, and the cities adioyning in like manner hauing fornicatæ
2. Pet. 2.
Nu. 14, 37.
Gen. 19.
exfornicatæ fornicated, and going after other flesh, were made an example, sustaining the paine of eternal fire. ⁸ In like

^a Diuers Heretikes abuse the libertie of Chriftes grace and Ghospel, to the fulfilling of their carnal lustes and concupiscences.

^b This is our Sauour, not Iofue, as S. Hierom noteth. *ep. 17. See Abac. c. 3. v. 18.*

manner theſe alſo defile the fleſh, and ^a)deſpiſe dominion, & blaſpheme maieſtie. ⁹ When Michael the Archangel, diſputing with the Diuel, made altercation [¶]for the body of Moyſes, he durſt not inferre iudgement of blaſphemie, rebuke but ſaid, Our Lord ‘command’ thee. ¹⁰ But theſe, what things ſoeuer certes they are ignorant of, [¶]they blaſpheme: and what things ſoeuer naturally, as dumme beaſts, they know, in thoſe they are corrupted.

becauſe they ¹¹ Woe vnto them, ‘which’ haue gone in the way of *Gen. 4, 8.* [¶]Cain: and with the error of Balaam, haue for reward *Nu. 12.* powred out themſelues, and haue periſhed in the *Nu. 16.* contradiction of Core. ¹² Theſe are in their bankets, ſpots, feaſting together without feare, feeding themſelues, clouds without water which are carried about of winds, trees of autumnne, vnfruitful, twiſe dead, plucked vp by the roots, ¹³ raging waues of the ſea, foming out their owne confuſions, wandering ſtarres: to whom the ſtorme of darkneſſe is referued for euer. ¹⁴ And of theſe propheſied Enoch, the ſeuenth from Adam, ſaying: Behold our Lord is come in his holy thouſands, ¹⁵ to doe iudgement againſt al, and to reprove al the impious, of al the workes of their impietie whereby they haue done impiouſly, and of al the hard things which impious finners haue ſpoken againſt him. ¹⁶ Theſe are murmurers, ful of complaints, walking according to their owne deſires, and their mouth ſpeaketh pride, admiring perſons for gaine fake.

¹⁷ But you, my Deareſt, be mindful of the words which haue been ſpoken before by the Apoſtles of our Lord IESVS Chriſt, ¹⁸ who told you, that in the laſt time ſhal come mockers, according to their owne deſires walking in impieties. ¹⁹ [¶]Theſe are they which ſegregate themſelues, ſenfual, hauing not the Spirit. ²⁰ But you, your my Deareſt, building your ſelues vpon ‘our’ moſt holy faith, in the Holy Ghoſt, praying, ²¹ keep your ſelues in the loue of God, expecting the mercie of our Lord

^a Such heretikes, that wil not be ſubiect to any ſuperiour, or that reſuſe to obey the lawes either of Spiritual or Temporal Rulers. In which kind (ſpecially in blaſpheming the ſupreme Spiritual Magiſtrate) the Proteſtants do paſſe.

IESVS Chrif vnto life euerlafting. ²² And thefe certes reprove being iudged: ²³ but them faue, pulling our of the fire. And on other haue mercie in feare: hating alfo that which is carnal, the fpotted cote.

²⁴ And to him that is able to preferue you without finne, and to fet you immaculate before the fight of his glorie in exultation in the comming of our Lord IESVS Chrif, ²⁵ to the only God our Sauour by IESVS Chrif our Lord be glorie and magnificence, empire and power before al worlds, and now and for al worlds euermore. Amen.

ANNOTATIONS

9 For the body of Moyfes.) When, why, or how this alteration or combat was between S. Michael and the Diuel about Moyfes body, no man can declare. Only this we fee that many truthes and ftories were kept in the mouthes and harts of the faithful, that were not written in Scriptures canonical, as this was among the Iewes.

Truths vnwritten, and known by tradition.

10 They blafpheme.) He fpeaketh of Heretikes, who being ignorant in God's myfteries and the diuine doctrine of his Church, when they can not reprove the things, then they fal to execrations, irrifions, and blafphemies againft the Priests, Church, and Sacraments, and whatfoeuer is godly.

Ignorance maketh Heretikes blafpheme.

11 Cain, Balaam, Core.) The Apoftle would haue Heretikes fpecially to be known, by the refemblance they haue, firft to Cain, in that for enuy that his brothers feruice and Sacrifice was accepted and his reiected, flew his faid brother, and was a fugitiue from the face and citie of God, which is the Church. Secondly, by their refemblance to Balaam, who for money was induced to curfe God's people, as couetoufnes is cōmonly the caufe that firft maketh Heretikes & falfe Prophets. Whereupō S. Aug. faith: *He is an Heretike that for temporal commodities fake either coineth or followeth new opinions. S. Auguft. li. de vtil. cred. cap. 1.* And laftly, by the refemblance they haue with the ancient and notorious Schifmatike Core, and his companions, who forfooke the ordinarie Priefthood appointed by God, and would needs doe Sacrifice themfelues without lawful calling.

Heretikes refembled to Cain, Balaam, and Core.

Such indeed be al Heretikes, and fuch be al their facraments, feruice, and offices in their Church, as Cores were in his schifmatical tabernacles. And as pride was the caufe of his reuolting from the obedience of Moyfes and Aaron his Priests and true Gouvernours; fo is intolerable pride the caufe of al Heretikes forfaking their lawful Pafours and Rulers, and namely of forfaking

Chriftes owne Vicar in earth, our true Aaron, as S. Bernard calleth him. *De confid. li. 2. cap. 8.* To al fuch forfakers the Apofle here giueth the curfe and Væ due to the faid three, Cain, Balaam, and Core, and telleth them that the ftorme of darkenes and eternal damnation is prouided for them: moft liuely defcribing al Heretikes (as in fome we to our woe haue experience by their māners in our daies) in al this paffage euen to the end of the Epiftle.

19 Thefe are they which fegregate themfelues.) The conditions of Heretikes in the later daies, that is, euer fince Chrift's time, not of thefe only of our Age. For there were many that forfooke Gods Church and *fegregated themfelues* from the fellowship of the faithful euen in the primitiue Church: that we may the leffe maruel at thefe mens fegregating themfelues, and going out from the reft, into feveral Sects, which S. Auguftin therefore calleth *Segregations*.

Al Heretikes fegregate themfelues.