

Chapter 01

He comforteth them in their persecutions (being now by Baptisme made the children of God) with the hope of their heauenly inheritance: 6. shewing how meritorious it is for them to be so constant in faith, 10. and confirming them therein with the authoritie of the Prophets and of the Holy Ghoft. 15. Exhorting thẽ to liue also accordingly in al holines, 16. confidering the holines of God, the vprightnes of his iudgement, the price of their redemption by Chrif, 22. and the vertue of the feed in them (which is grace regeneratiue in Baptisme) fore-told by the Prophets also.

Peter an Apofle of IESVS Chrif, to the elect ftrangers of the difperſion of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Afia, and Bithynia, ² according to the preſcience of God the Father, into ſanctification of the Spirit, vnto the obedience and ſprinkling of the bloud of IESVS Chrif: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.

*2. Cor. 1, 3.
Eph. 1, 3.*

³ Bleſſed be God and the Father of our Lord IESVS Chrif, who according to his great mercie hath regenerated vs vnto a liuely hope, by the refurrection of IESVS Chrif from the dead, ⁴ vnto an inheritance incorruptible, and incontaminate, and that can not fade, conferred in the heauens in you, ⁵ (who in the vertue of God are kept by faith vnto ſaluation) ready to be reuealed in the laſt time. ⁶ Wherin you ſhal reioyce, a litle now if you muſt be made heauy in diuers tentations: ⁷ that the probation of your faith much more pretious then gold (which is proued by the fire) may be found vnto praife and glorie and honour in the reuelation of IESVS Chrif: ⁸ whom hauing not ſeen, you loue: in whom now alſo not feeling you beleue: and beleeuing you reioyce with ioy vnſpeakable and glorified, ⁹ receiuing the end of your faith, the ſaluation of your ſoules.

¹⁰ Of the which ſaluation the Prophets inquired & ſearched, which prophecied of the grace to come in you, ¹¹ ſearching vnto which or what manner of time the Spirit of Chrif in them did ſignifie: fore-telling thoſe

paffions that are in Chrif, and the glories following: ¹² to whom it was reuealed, that not to themfelues, but to you they miniftred thofe things which now are told you by them that haue euāgelized to you, the Holy Ghof, being fent from Heauen, on whom the Angels defire to looke.

¹³ For the which caufe hauing the loynes of your ^a)mind girded, fober, truft perfectly in that grace which is offered you, in the reuelation of IESVS Chrif, ¹⁴ as children of obedience, not configurated to the former defires of your ignorance: ¹⁵ but according to him that hath called you, the Holy one, be you alfo in al conuerfation holy: ¹⁶ becaufe it is written: *You fhall be holy, becaufe I am holy.* ¹⁷ And if you inuocate the Father, him which without acception of perfons iudgeth according to euery ones ^b)worke: in feare conuerfe ye the time of your feiourning. ¹⁸ Knowing that not with corruptible things, gold or filuer, you are redeemed from your vaine conuerfation of your Fathers ^c)tradition: ¹⁹ but with the pretious blood as it were of an immaculate and vnfpotted Lamb, Chrif, ²⁰ fore-knowen indeed before the conftitution of the world, but manifefed in the laft times for you, ²¹ which by him are faithful in God who raifed him frō the dead, & hath giuē him glorie, that your faith and hope might be in God. ²² Making your foules chaft in obedience of charitie, in the fincere loue of the Fraternitie from the hart loue ye one another earneftly: ²³ borne againe not of corruptible feed, but incorruptible by the word of God who liueth & remaineth for euer. ²⁴ For *al flesh is as graffe: & al the glorie*

Leu. 11, 19.
20, 7.

Deu. 10.

Ro. 2. Gal. 2.

1. Cor. 6, 20.
7, 23.

Ro. 16. 25.

Col. 1, 26.

Tit. 1, 2.

Efa. 40, 6.

^a Chaftitie not only of body but alfo of mind, is required. *S. Bede vpon this place.*

^b God wil iudge men according to euery ones workes, & not by faith only.

^c He meaneth the errors of Gentility. Or if he write to the Iewes difperfed, he meaneth the yoke of the Law with the fond and heauy additions of their later Maifters called *Deuterofes*. The Heretikes, to make it found to the fimple againft the traditions of the Church, corrupt the text thus, *which you haue receiued by tradition of the Fathers.*

therof as the floure of graffe. The graffe is withered, and the floure therof is fallen away. ²⁵ But the word of our Lord remaineth for euer, and this is the word that is euangelized among you.