

Chapter 02

Such as hope not of life to come, 6. addict themfelues to prefent pleasures: 10. and perfecute the iuft, especially our Sauiour Chrift, as contrarie to their wickednes. 23. Death came vpon man by the diuels enuie.

For they haue faid thinking with themfelues not wel: ^{a)}Little, and with tedioufnes is the time of our life: and in the end of a man there is no recouerie, and there is none knowne that hath returned from hel: ² because of nothing were we borne, and after this, we shal be as if we had not bene: because the breath is a fmoke in our nofthrels: & speach a sparke to moue our hart. ³ Which being extinguished, our bodie shal be ashes, and the spirit shal be powred abrode as soft ayre, and our life shal paffe as the trace of a cloude, and shal be diffolued as a mist, which is driuen away by the beames of the funne, and oppreffed with the heate therof. ⁴ and our name in time shal be forgotten, and no man shal haue remembrance of our workes. ⁵ For our time is the paffing of a shadow, and there is no returne of our end: because it is fealed, and no man returneth. ⁶ ^{b)}Come therfore, and let vs enjoy the good thinges that are, and let vs quickly vfe the creature as in youth. ⁷ Let vs fil ourfelues with precious wine, and oyntments: and let not the flowre of the time paffe vs. ⁸ Let vs crowne ourfelues with rofes, before they wither: let there be no medow, which our riote shal not paffe through. ⁹ Let none of vs be exempted from our riotteoufnes: euerie where let vs leauie signes of ioy: because this is our portion, and this our lot. ¹⁰ Let vs ^{c)}oppreffe

^a Carnal men thincking the foule to be mortal, and so neither paine nor reward to be after death, fal to thefe prophane thoughts and speaches of infidelitie.

^b Of infidelitie touching paine or reward after death, procedeth the Epicures life.

^c Infidels are not content to liue in riote, but doe also enuie and perfecute the iuft, vvhose good examples vexe their mindes, sturred thereto by the diuel.

the poore iuft man, and not spare the widow, nor reuerence the oldmans grey head of long time. ¹¹ But let our strength be the law of iufstice: for that which is weake, is found vnprofitable. ¹² a)Let vs therfore circumuent the iuft, because he is vnprofitable to vs, and he is contrarie to our workes, and reprochfully obiecteth vnto vs the finnes of the law, and defameth in vs the finnes of our discipline. ¹³ He boasteth that he hath the knowlege of God, and nameth himselfe the sonne of God. ¹⁴ He is made vnto vs to the defaming of our cogitations. ¹⁵ He is greuous vnto vs euen to behold, because his life is vnlike to others, and his wayes are changed. ¹⁶ We are estemed of him as triflers, and he abfteyneth from our wayes as from vncleannes, and he preferreth the later ends of the iuft, and glorieth that he hath God for his father. ¹⁷ Let vs see therfore if his wordes be true, and let vs proue what thinges shal come to him, and we shal know what shal be his later ends. ¹⁸ For if he be the true sonne of God, he wil defend him, & wil deliuer him from the hands of the aduersaries. ¹⁹ By contumelie and torment let vs examine him, that we may know his reuerence, and proue his patience. ²⁰ To a moft shameful death let vs condemne him: for there shal be respect had vnto him by his wordes. ²¹ These thinges haue they thought, and haue erred: for their malice hath blinded them. ²² And they haue not knownen ^{b)}the sacraments of God, nor hoped for the reward of iufstice, nor estemed the honour of holie foules. ²³ For God created man incorruptible, and to the image of his owne likenes he made him. ²⁴ But by the enuie of the diuel, death entred into the world: ²⁵ and they folow him that are of his part.

Mat. 27. v. 43.

^a An euident prophecie of the Iewes malice perfecuting our Sauiour. Fulfilled by the chief Priestes, Scribes, and Ancientes, recorded by the Euangelists. *Mat. 27. v. 41. Mat. 14. v. 53.*

^b VWant of beleuing diuine Mysteries, namely the reward of the iuft, & punisfhmēt of the wicked, is caufe of dissolute life, and of hatred agaist the good.