

Chapter 02

Such as hope not of life to come, 6. addict themfelues to preſent pleaſures: 10. and perfecute the iuſt, eſpecially our Sauour Chriſt, 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 tediousnes 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 ſmoke in our noſthrels: & ſpeach a ſparke to moue our hart. ³ Which being extinguished, our bodie ſhal be aſhes, and the ſpirit ſhal be powred abroad as ſoft ayre, and our life ſhal paſſe as the trace of a cloude, and ſhal be diffolued as a miſt, which is driuen away by the beames of the funne, and oppreſſed 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 paſſing of a ſhadow, and there is no returne of our end: becauſe it is ſealed, and no man returneth. ⁶ ^{b)}Come therefore, and let vs enioy the good thinges that are, and let vs quickly vſe the creature as in youth. ⁷ Let vs fil ourfelues with precious wine, and oyntments: and let not the flowre of the time paſſe vs. ⁸ Let vs crowne ourfelues with roſes, before they wither: let there be no medow, which our riote ſhal not paſſe through. ⁹ Let none of vs be exempted from our riotouſnes: euerie where let vs leaue ſignes of ioy: becauſe this is our portion, and this our lot. ¹⁰ Let vs ^{c)}oppreſſe

^a Carnal men thincking the foule to be mortal, and ſo neither paine nor reward to be after death, fal to theſe prophane thoughts and ſpeeches 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 iuſt, vvhoſe good examples vex their mindes, ſturred therto by the diuel.

Mat. 27. v. 43.

the poore iuft man, and not fpare the widow, nor reuerence the oldmans grey head of long time. ¹¹ But let our ftrength be the law of iuftice: for that which is weake, is found vnprofitable. ¹² ^{a)}Let vs therfore circumuent the iuft, becaufe 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 difcipline. ¹³ He boafteth that he hath the knowlege of God, and nameth himfelfe the fonne of God. ¹⁴ He is made vnto vs to the defaming of our cogitations. ¹⁵ He is greuous vnto vs euen to behold, becaufe his life is vnlike to others, and his wayes are changed. ¹⁶ We are eftemed 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 fee 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 fonne of God, he wil defend him, & wil deliuer him from the hands of the aduerfaries. 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 refpect had vnto him by his wordes. ²¹ Thefe thinges haue they thought, and haue erred: for their malice hath blinded them. ²² And they haue not knowen ^{b)}the facraments of God, nor hoped for the reward of iuftice, nor eftemed 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.

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

^b VVant of beleuing diuine Myfteries, namely the reward of the iuft, & punifhmēt of the wicked, is caufe of diffolute life, and of hatred againft the good.