

¶ Another right godly letter of Iohn Hus, to a Certaine priest admonishing him of his office, and exhorting him to be faithfull: worthy to be read of all Ministers.

A worthie lesson for all ministers & prelates.

THe peace of our Lorde Iesus Christ. &c. My deare brother be diligent in preaching the Gospel, and do the worke of a good Euangelist: neglect not your vocation: labour like a blessed iouldiour of Christ. First liue godly and holily. Secondly, teach faithfully and truely. Thirdly, be an example to other in well doing, that you be not reprehended in your sayings: correct vice and set fourth vertue. To euill liuers threaten eternall punishmet: but to those that be faithfull and godly, set forth the comforts of eternall ioy. Preach continually, but be short and fruitfull, prudently vnderstanding, & discretely disposing the holy Scriptures. Neuer affirme or maintaine those things that be vncertaine and doubtfull, least that your aduerfaries take holde vpon you, which reioyce in depraing their brethren, whereby they may bring the ministers of God into contempt. Exhort men to the confession of their faith, and to the communion of both kindes, both of the body & bloud of Christ, wherby such as do repent earnestly of their sinnes, may the more often come to the holy communion. And I warne you that you enter into no tauernes with ghesles, & be not a comon cōpany keeper. For the more a preacher keepeth him frō the company of men, the more he is regarded. All be it, deny not yet your helpe and diligence, where soeuer you may profite other. Against fleshye lust preache continuallye all that euer you can: For that is the raging beast, which deuoureth men, for whom the flesh of Christ did suffer. Wherfore my heartily beloued, I beseech you to flie fornication: for where as a man woulde most profite and doe good, there this vice vseth most to lurke. In any case flie the company of yong women, and beleuee not their deuotion: For S. Aulien sayth, the more deuout she is, the more procliuē to wantonnesse, and vnder the pretence of religion, the snare and venome of fornication lurketh. And this knowe my welbeloued, that the conuersation with them, subuerteth many, whome the conuersation of this worlde coulde neuer blemish nor beguile. Admit no womē into your house, for what cause, so euer it be, and haue not much talke with them otherwise, for auoiding of offence. Finally, how soeuer you do, feare God and keepe his precepts: so shall you walke wisely, and shall not perish: so shall you subdue the flesh, contemne the world, and overcome the deuill: so shall you put on God, finde life, and confirme other, and iha: l crowne your selfe wyth the crowne of glory, the which the iust iudge shall geue you. Amen.

S. Augustin meaneth not here of all, but of the common sort of light persons.

¶ This letter of Iohn Hus containeth a confession of the infirmite of mans flesh: Howe weake it is, and repugnant against the spirite. Wherein he also exhorteth to perseuere constantly in the truth.

This Palletz was the chief enemy of I. Hus, & procurer of his death.

Michael de Causis another bitter enemy of Iohn Hus. Iohn Hus prayeth for his enemies.

A prophecy of Iohn Hus

Health be to you from Iesus Christ. &c. My deare friend, knowe that Palletz came to me to perswade me that I should not feare the shame of abiuration, but to consider the good which thereof will come. To whome I sayd, that the shame of condemnation and burning is greater then to abiure: and why should I feare then that shame? But I pray you tel me plainly your minde. Presuppōse that such articles were laid to you, which you knewe your selfe not to be true: what would you do in that case? would you abiure? Who answered. The case is sore, & began to weepe. Many other things wee spake which I did reprehende. Michael de Causis, was some times before the prison with the deputies. And when I was wyth the deputies, thus I heard him speake vnto the keepers: Wee by the grace of God will burne this hereticke shortly: for whose cause I haue spent many Florenes. But yet vnderstand that I wryte not this to the intent to reuenge mee of him, for that I haue committed to God, and pray to God for him with all my heart.

Yet I exhort you again, to be circumspect about our letters: for Michael hath taken iudicē the order that none shall be suffered to come into the prison: no nor yet the keepers wiuēs are permitted to come to me. O holy God, howe largely doth Antichrist extend his power and crueltie? But I trust that hys power shall be shortned, and his iniquitie shall be detected more & more amongst the faithfull people.

Almighty God shall confirme the hearts of his faithfull, whom he hath chosen before the cōstitution of the world, that they may receive the eternall crowne of glory. And let Antichrist rage as much as he wil, yet he shall not preuaile against Christ, which shall destroy him with the spirite of his mouth, as the Apostle sayeth: And then shall the creature be deliuered out of seruitude of corruption, into the libertie of the glorie of the sonnes of God, as sayeth the Apostle in the wordes following: we also wythin oure selues doe grone, waiting for the adoption of the sonnes of God, the redemption of our body.

I am greatly comforted in those wordes of our Satiour: happy be you when men shall hate you and shall seperate you, and shall rebuke you, and shall cast out your name as execrable, for

the sonne of man. Reioyce and be glad, for beholde, great is your rewarde in heauen, Luke 6. O worthy, yea O most worthy consolation, which not to vnderstande, but to practise in time of tribulation, is a hard lesson.

This rule saint Iames with the other Apostles, did well vnderstand, which saith: count it exceeding ioy my brethren, when yee shall fall into diuers tentations, knowing that the probation of your faith woorketh patience: let patience haue her perfecte worke. For certainly it is a great matter for a man to reioyce in trouble, and to take it for ioy to be in diuers temptations. A light matter it is to speake it and to expounde it: but a great matter to fulfill it: For why, our most patient and most valiaunt champion him selfe, knowing that hee should rise againe the thirde day, ouercomming his enemies by his death, and redeeming from damnation his electe after his last Supper was troubled in spirite and sayde: My soule is heaueie vnto death. Of whom also the Gospell sayeth, that hee began to feare, to be sadde and heaueie. Who being then in an agonie, was confirmed of the Aungell, and his sweate was like the droppes of bloud falling vpon the ground. And yet he notwithstanding, being to troubled, sayde to his disciples: let not your hearts be troubled, neither feare the crueltie of them that persecute you: for you shall haue me with you alwaies, that you may overcome the tyranny of your persecutors. Whereupon those his souldiours, looking vpon the Prince and king of glory, sustained great conflicts. They passed through fire and water and were saued, and received the crowne of the Lord God, of the which S. Iames in his canonically Epistle, sayeth. Blessed is the man that suffereth temptation, for when he shall be proued, he shall receaue the crowne of life, which God hath promised to them that loue him. Of this crowne I trust stedfastly the Lord will make mee partaker also with you, which be the feruent sealers of the trueth, and with all them which stedfastly and constantly doe loue the Lord Iesus Christ, which suffred for vs, leauing to vs example that we should follow his steppes. It behooued him to suffer, as hee sayeth: and vs also it behooued to suffer, that the members may suffer together with the head. For he sayeth: If any man will come after mee, let him denaie himselfe and take vp hys crosse and followe me.

The example of Christ.

O most mercifull Christ, draw vs weake creatures after thee, for except thou shouldst draw vs, we are not able to follow thee. Geue vs a strong spirite, that it may be ready, and although the flesh be feeble, yet let thy grace goe before vs, goe with vs, and follow vs: for without thee we can do nothing; and much lesse enter into the cruell death for thy sake. Geue vs that prompt and ready spirite, a bold hart, an vpright sayth, a firme hope and perfecte charitie, that we may geue our luyes patiently and ioyfully for thy names sake. Amen. Writen in prison and in bondes in the Vigill of holy S. Iohn the Baptist, who beyng in prison and in bondes for the rebuking of wickednesse, was beheaded.

The prayer of I. Hus to Christ.

Among diuers other letters of Iohn Hus, which he wrote to the great consolation of others: I thought also here to intermixt an other certaine godly letter wrytte out of England, by a faythfull Scholler of wicklesse, as appeareth, vnto Iohn Hus and the Bohemians, which for the zealous affectio therein contined, seemeth not vnwoorthy to be read.

¶ A letter to Iohn Hus, and to the Bohemians from London.

Reetyng, and what soeuer can be deuised more sweete, in the bowels of Christ Iesu. My dearely beloued in the Lord, whom I loue in the trueth, and not I onely, but also all they that haue the knowledge of the trueth, whiche abyde in you, and shall be with you through the grace of G O D for euermore: I reioysed aboue measure, when our beloued brethren came and gaue testimony vnto vs of your trueth, and how you walke in the trueth. I haue heard brethren, how sharply Antichrist persecuteth you, in vexing the faithfull seruantes of Christ with diuers and straunge kyndes of afflictions. And surely no maruaile, if amongest you (since it is so almost all the world ouer) the law of Christ be too too greuouly impugned, and that redde Dragon hauyng so many heades (of whom it is spoken in the Apocalyps) haue now vomited out of his mouth that great floud, by which he goeth about to swallow vp the woman: but the most gracious God will deliuer for euer his onely and most faythfull spouse. Let vs therefore cōfort our selues in the Lord our God, and in his vnmeasurable goodnes, hopyng strongly in him which will not suffer those that loue him, to be vnmercifully defrauded of any their purpose, if we according to our duty, shall loue him with all our hart: for aduerfite should by no means preuaile ouer vs, if there were no iniquite raignyng in vs. Let therefore no tribulation or sorrow for Christs cause, discourage vs, knowing this for a surty, that who soeuer the Lord vouchsafeth to receaue to be his childre, those he scourgeth: For so the mercifull father will haue them

A zealous letter to I. Hus from London.