

shall be rejected, ¹ ye have hated me.

⁹ Remember in your prayers the church of Syria, which now enjoys God for its shepherd instead of me: ² Let Jesus Christ only ³ oversee it, and your charity.

¹⁰ But I am even ashamed to be reckoned as one of them: For neither am I worthy, being the least among them, and as one ⁴ born out of due season. But through mercy I have obtained to be somebody, if I shall get unto God.

¹¹ My spirit salutes you; and the charity of the churches that have received me in the name of Jesus Christ; not as a passenger. For even they that were not near to me in the way, have gone before me to the next city ⁵ to meet me.

¹² These things I write to you from Smyrna, by the most worthy of the church of Ephesus.

¹³ There is now with me, together with many others, Crocus, most beloved of me. As for those which are ⁶ come from Syria, and are gone before me to Rome, to the glory of God, I suppose you are not ignorant of them.

¹⁴ Ye shall therefore signify to them, that I draw near, for they are all worthy both of God and of you: Whom it is fit that you refresh in all things.

¹⁵ This have I written to you, the day before the ninth of the calends of September. ⁶ Be strong unto the end, in the patience of Jesus Christ. ⁷

¶ *To the Romans.*

The EPISTLE of IGNATIUS to the PHILADELPHIANS.

CHAP. I.

Commends their bishop whom they had sent unto him, ⁵ warns them against divisions and schism.

IGNATIUS, who is also called Theophorus, to the church of God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, which is at Philadelphia in Asia; which has obtained mercy, being fixed in the concord of God, and rejoicing ⁸ evermore in the passion of our Lord, and being fulfilled in all mercy through his resurrection: Which also I salute in the blood of Jesus Christ, ⁹ which is our eternal and undefiled joy; especially if they are at unity with the bishop, and presbyters who are with him, and the dea-

cons appointed ¹⁰ according to the ¹¹ mind of Jesus Christ; whom he has settled according to his own will in all firmness by his Holy Spirit:

² Which bishop I know obtained ¹² that great ministry among you, not of himself, neither by men, nor out of vain glory; but ¹³ by the love of God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

³ Whose moderation ¹⁴ I admire; who by his silence is able to do more than ¹⁵ others with all their vain talk. For he is fitted to the commands, as the harp to its strings.

⁴ Wherefore my soul esteems his mind towards God most hap-

¹ Viz. as unworthy to suffer. ² Vid. Vet. Interp. Lat. ³ Shall oversee it. ⁴ 1 Cor. xv. 8. ⁵ Vid. Vet. Interp. Lat. ⁶ That is the xxxiiiid of August. Gr. ⁷ Amen. Gr. ⁸ Inseparably. ⁹ Vid. Vet. Interp. Lat. ¹⁰ In. ¹¹ Will, order. ¹² Ministry belonging to the public. ¹³ In. ¹⁴ Has struck me with wonder. ¹⁵ Those that speak vain things.

py, knowing it to be fruitful in all virtue, and perfect; full of constancy, free from passion, ¹and according to all the moderation of the living God.

5 Wherefore as becomes the children both of the light and of truth; flee divisions and false doctrines; but where your shepherd is, there do ye, as sheep, follow after.

6 For there are many wolves ²who seem worthy of belief, that with a ³false pleasure lead captive those that run in the course of God; but in the concord they shall find no place.

7 Abstain therefore from those evil herbs which Jesus Christ does not dress; because such are not the plantation of the Father. Not that I have found any division among you, but rather all manner of ⁴purity.

8 For as many as are of God, and of Jesus Christ, are also with their bishop. And as many as shall with repentance return into the unity of the church, even these shall also be the servants of God, that they may live according to Jesus.

9 Be not deceived, brethren; if any one follows him that makes a schism in the church, he shall not inherit the kingdom of God. If any one walks after any other opinion, he agrees not with the passion of Christ.

10 Wherefore let it be your endeavour to partake all of the same holy eucharist.

11 For there is but one flesh of our Lord Jesus Christ; and one cup in the unity of his blood; one altar;

12 As also there is one bi-

shop, together with his presbytery, and the deacons my fellow-servants: that so whatsoever ye do, ye may do it according to the will of God.

CHAP. II.

Desires their prayers, and to be united but not to Judaize.

MY brethren, the love I have towards you makes me the ⁵more large; and having a great joy in you, I endeavour to secure you against danger; or rather not I, but Jesus Christ; in whom being bound I the more fear, as being yet only ⁶on the way to suffering.

2 But your prayer to God shall make me perfect, that I may attain to that portion, which by God's mercy is allotted to me: Fleeing to the Gospel as to the flesh of Christ; and to the Apostles as to the presbytery of the church.

3 Let us also love the prophets, forasmuch as they also have ⁷led us to the Gospel, and to hope in ⁸Christ, and to expect him.

4 In whom also believing they were saved in the unity of Jesus Christ; being holy men, worthy to be loved, and had in wonder;

5 Who have received testimony from Jesus Christ, and are numbered in the Gospel of our common hope.

6 But if any one shall preach ⁹the Jewish law unto you, hearken not unto him; for ¹⁰it is better to receive the doctrine of Christ from one that has been circumcised, than Judaism from one that has not.

¹In. ²Vid. Vossii Annot. in loc. ³Evil. ⁴Cleanliness made by sifting. ⁵Very much poured out. ⁶Vid. Voss. in loc. Imperfect. ⁷Or preached of the Gospel; and hoped in him, and expected him. ⁸Vid. Voss. in loc. ⁹Judaism. ¹⁰Opinion: council.

7 But if either the one, or other, do not speak concerning Christ Jesus, they seem to me to be but as monuments and sepulchres of the dead, upon which are written only the names of men.

8 Flee therefore the wicked arts and snares of the prince of this world; lest at any time being oppressed by his cunning ye grow ¹cold in your charity. But come all together into the same place with an undivided heart.

9 And I bless my God that I have a good conscience towards you, and that no one among you has whereof to boast either openly or privately, that I have been burdensome to him in much or little.

10 And I wish to all among whom I have conversed, that it may not turn to a witness against them.

11 For although some would have deceived me according to the flesh, yet the spirit, being from God, is not deceived; for it knows both whence it comes and whither it goes, and reproveth the secrets of the heart.

12 I cried whilst I was among you; I spake with a loud voice: attend to the bishop, and to the presbytery, and to the deacons.

13 Now some supposed that I spake this as foreseeing the division ²that should come among you.

14 But he is my witness for whose sake I am in bonds that I knew nothing from any man. But the spirit spake, saying on this wise: Do nothing without the bishop:

15 Keep your ³bodies as the temples of God: Love unity; Flee divisions; Be the followers of Christ, as he was of his Father.

16 I therefore did as became me, as a man composed to unity. For where there is division, and wrath, God dwelleth not.

17 But the Lord forgives all that repent, if they ⁴return to the unity of God, and to the council of the bishop.

18 For I trust in the grace of Jesus Christ ⁵that he will free you from every bond.

19 Nevertheless I exhort you that you do nothing out of strife, but according to the instruction of Christ.

20 Because I have heard of some who say; unless I find it written in the ⁶originals, I will not believe it to be written in the Gospel. And when I said, It is written; they answered what lay before them in their corrupted copies.

21 But to me Jesus Christ is instead of all the uncorrupted monuments in the world; together with those ⁷undefiled monuments, his cross, and death, and resurrection, and the faith which is by him; by which I desire, through your prayers, to be justified.

22 ¶ The priests indeed are good; but much better is the High Priest to whom the Holy of Holies has been committed; and who alone has been entrusted with the secrets of God.

23 He is the door of the Father; by which Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, enter in; as well as the Apostles, and the church.

¹ Weak. ² Of some. ³ Flesh. ⁴ Repent. ⁵ Who will loose from you, ⁶ Archives, Vid. Voss. Annot. in loc. ⁷ Untouched.

24 And all these things tend to the unity which is of God. Howbeit the Gospel has somewhat in it far above all other dispensations; namely, the appearance of our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, his passion and resurrection.

25 For the beloved prophets referred to him; but the gospel is the perfection of incorruption. All therefore together are good, if ye believe with charity.

CHAP. III.

Informs them he had heard that the persecution was stopped at Antioch, and directs them to send a messenger hitherto to congratulate with the church.

NOW as concerning the church of Antioch which is in Syria, seeing I am told that through your prayers and the bowels which ye have towards it in Jesus Christ, it is in peace; it will become you, as the church of God, to ordain some¹ deacon to go to them thither as the ambassador of God; that he may rejoice with them when they meet together, and glorify God's name.

2 Blessed be that man in Jesus Christ, who shall be found worthy of such a ministry; and ye yourselves also shall be glorified.

3 Now if you be willing, it is not impossible for you to do this for the grace of God; as also the other neighbouring churches have sent them, some bishops, some priests and deacons.

4 As concerning Philo the deacon of Cilicia, a most worthy² man, he still ministers unto me in the word of God: together with Rheus³ of Agathopolis, a singular good person, who has followed me even from Syria, not regarding his life: These also bear witness unto you.

5 And I myself give thanks to God for you that you receive them as the Lord shall receive you. But for those that dishonoured them, may they be forgiven through the grace of Jesus Christ.

6 The charity of the brethren that are at Troas salutes you: from whence also I now write by Burrhus, who was sent together with me by those of Ephesus and Smyrna, for respect sake.

7 May our Lord Jesus Christ honour them; in whom they hope, both in flesh, and soul, and spirit; in faith, in love, in unity. Farewell in Christ Jesus our common hope.

The EPISTLE of IGNATIUS to the SMYRNÆANS.

CHAP. I.

1 *Declares his joy for their firmness in the Gospel.* 4 *Enlarges on the person of Christ, against such as pretend that Christ did not really suffer.*

IGNATIUS, who is also called Theophorus, to the church of God the Father, and of the beloved Jesus Christ, which God hath mercifully⁴ blessed with every good gift; being filled with

faith and charity, so that this is wanting in no gift; most worthy of God, and fruitful in saints: the church which is at Smyrna in Asia; all joy, through his immaculate spirit, and the word of God.

2 I glorify God, even Jesus Christ, who has given you such wisdom.

3 For I have observed that

Messenger or Minister. ² Vid. Vossius, a martyr or confessor. Vid. Annot. in loc. ³ Vid. Vossius Annot. in Ep. ad. Smyrn. p. 261. See chap. iii. v. 11. ⁴ Comp. 1 Cor. vii. 25.