

20 The love of the brethren that are at Troas salute you; from whence I write to you by Burrhus whom you sent with me, together with the Ephesians your brethren; and who has in all things refreshed me.

21 And I would to God that all would imitate him, as being a pattern of the ministry of God. May his grace fully reward him.

22 I salute your very worthy bishop, and your venerable presbytery; and your deacons, my fellow-servants; and all of you in general, and every one in particular, in the name of Jesus Christ, and in his flesh and blood; in his passion and resurrection both fleshly and spiritually; and in 'the unity of God with you.

23 Grace be with you, and mercy, and peace. and patience, for evermore.

24 I salute the families of my brethren, with their wives and children; and the² virgins that are called widows. Be strong in the power of the Holy Ghost. Philo, who is present with me salutes you.

25 I salute the house of Tavian, and pray that it may be strengthened in faith and charity, both of flesh and spirit.

26 I salute Alce my well-beloved,³ together with the incomparable Daphnus, and Eutechnus, and all by name.

27 Farewell in the grace of God.

¶ To the Smyrncæans from Troas.

The EPISTLE of IGNATIUS to POLYCARP.

CHAP. I.

Blesses God for the firm establishment of Polycarp in the faith, and gives him particular directions for improving it.

IGNATIUS, who is also called Theophorus, to Polycarp, bishop of the church⁴ which is at Smyrna; their overseer, but rather himself overlooked by God the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ: all happiness.

2 Having known that thy mind towards God, is fixed as it were upon an immovable rock; I exceedingly give thanks, that I have been thought worthy to behold thy⁵ blessed face, in which may I always rejoice in God.

3 Wherefore I beseech thee by the grace of God with which thou art clothed, to press forward in thy course, and to exhort all others that they may be saved.

4 Maintain thy place with all care⁶ both of flesh and spirit: Make it thy endeavour to preserve unity, than which nothing is better. Bear with all men, even as the Lord with thee.

5 Support all in love, as also thou dost. ⁷ Pray without ceasing: ask more understanding than what thou already hast. Be watchful, having thy spirit always awake.

6 Speak to every one⁸ according as God shall enable thee. Bear the⁹ infirmities of all, as a perfect combatant; where the labour is great, the gain¹⁰ is the more.

7 If thou shalt love the good disciples, what thank is it? But rather do thou subject to thee those that are mischievous, in meekness.

¹ Vid. Voss. Annot. in loc. ² i. e. The deaconesses. See the reason for the name, Voss. Annot. in loc. Add. Coteler. ib. ³ See Voss. Annot. ex Epist. Interpol. ⁴ of the Smyrncæans. ⁵ Innocent. ⁶ Vid. 1 Cor. vii. 34. ⁷ Be at leisure to, etc. ⁸ Vid. Voss. in loc. aliter Vet. Lat. Interpr. ⁹ The diseases. ¹⁰ Is much.

8 Every wound is not healed with the same plaster : if the accessions of the disease be vehement, modify them with ¹soft remedies : be in all things ²wise as a serpent, but harmless as a dove.

9 For this cause thou art composed of flesh and spirit ; that thou mayest modify those things that appear before thy face.

10 And as for those that are not seen, pray to God that he would reveal them unto thee, that so thou mayest be wanting in nothing, but mayest abound in every gift.

11 The times demand thee, as the pilots the winds ; and he that is tossed in a tempest, the haven where he would be ; that thou mayst attain unto God.

12 Be sober as the combatant of God : the ³crown proposed to thee is immortality, and eternal life ; concerning which thou art also fully persuaded. I will be thy surety in all things, and my bonds, which thou hast loved.

13 Let not those that seem worthy of credit, but teach other doctrines, ⁴disturb thee. Stand firm and immovable, as an anvil when it is beaten upon.

14 It is the part of a brave combatant to be ⁵wounded, and yet overcome. But especially we ought to endure all things for God's sake, that he may bear with us.

15 Be every day ⁶better than other : consider the times ; and expect him, who is above all time, eternal, invisible, though for our sakes made visible : impassable, and impassable, yet for

us subjected to sufferings ; enduring all manner of ways for our salvation.

CHAP. II.

1 Continues his advice, 6 and teaches him how to advise others. 12 Enforces unity and subjection to the bishop.

LET not the widows be neglected : be thou after God, their guardian.

2 Let nothing be done without thy knowledge and consent ; neither do thou anything but according to the will of God ; as also thou dost, ⁷with all constancy.

3 Let your assemblies be more full : inquire into all by name.

4 Overlook not the men and maid servants ; neither let them be puffed up : but rather let them be the more subject to the glory of God, that they may obtain from him a better liberty.

5 Let them not desire to ⁸be set free at the public cost, that they be not slaves to their own lusts.

6 Flee evil ⁹arts ; or rather, make not any mention of them.

7 Say to my sisters, that they love the Lord ; and be satisfied with their own husbands, both in the flesh and spirit.

8 In like manner, exhort my brethren, in the name of Jesus Christ, that they love their wives, even as the Lord the Church.

9 If any man can remain in a virgin state, ¹⁰to the honour of the flesh of Christ, let him remain without boasting ; but if he boast, he is undone. And if he desire to be more taken notice

¹ Superfusions. ² Matt. x. 16. ³ Vid. Voss. Annot. in loc Collat. cum Coteler. ib. ⁴ Amaze thee. ⁵ Beaten. ⁶ More studious, diligent. ⁷ being well settled. ⁸ Vid. Annot. Coteler. in loc. ⁹ Or, trades. ¹⁰ Vid. Annot. Vossii et Coteler. in loc.

of than the bishop he is corrupted.

10 But it becomes all such as are married, whether men or women to come together with the consent of the bishop, that so their marriage may be according to godliness, and not in lust.

11 Let all things be done to the honour of God.

12 ¹ Hearken unto the bishop, that God also may hearken unto you. My soul be security for them that submit to their bishop, with their presbyters and deacons. And may my portion be together with theirs in God.

13 Labour with one another; contend together, run together, suffer together; sleep together, and rise together; as the stewards, and assessors, and ministers of God.

14 Please him under whom ye war, and from whom ye receive your wages. Let none of you be found a deserter; but let your baptism remain, as your arms; your faith, as your helmet; your charity, as your spear; your patience, as your whole armour.

15 Let your works be your ² charge, that so you may receive a suitable reward. Be long-suffering therefore towards each other in meekness: as God is towards you.

16 Let me have joy of you in all things.

CHAP. III.

1 Greet's Polycarp on the peace of the church at Antioch: 2 and desires him to write to that and other churches.

NOW forasmuch as the church of Antioch in Syria, is, ³ as

I am told, ⁴ see through your prayers; I ⁵ also have been the more comforted ⁶ and without care in God; if so be that by suffering, I shall attain unto God; that through your prayers I may be found a disciple of Christ.

2 It will be very fit, O most worthy Polycarp, to call a ⁷ select council, and choose some one whom ye particularly love, and who is patient of labour; that he may be the messenger of God; and that going unto Syria, he may glorify your incessant love, to the praise of Christ.

3 A Christian has not the power of himself: but must be always at leisure for God's service. Now this work is both God's and your's: when ye shall have perfected it.

4 For I trust through the grace of God that ye are ready to every good work that is fitting for you in the Lord.

5 Knowing therefore your earnest affection for the truth, I have exhorted you by ⁸ these short letters.

6 But forasmuch as I have not been able to write to all the churches, because I must suddenly sail from Troas to Neapolis; (for so is the command of those to whose pleasure I am subject;) do you write to the churches that are near you, as being instructed in the will of God, that they also may do in like manner.

7 Let those that are able send ⁹ messengers; and let the rest send their letters by those who shall be sent by you: that you

¹ Observe, from the foregoing verses, that Ignatius here speaks not to Polycarp, but through him to the Church of Smyrna. ² That which is committed to your custody, to keep secure. ³ It has been manifested unto me. ⁴ In the security of God. ⁵ Most becoming God. ⁶ Viz. To the Smyrnaeans, and this to himself. See Pearson in loc. ⁷ Footmen.

may be glorified ¹ to all eternity, of which you are worthy.

8 I salute all by name, particularly the wife of Epitropus, with all her house and children. I salute Attalus my well-beloved.

9 I salute him who shall be thought worthy to be sent by you into Syria. Let grace be

ever with him, ² and with Polycarp who sends him.

10 I wish you all happiness in our God, Jesus Christ; in whom continue, in the unity and protection of God.,

11 I salute Alce my well-beloved. Farewell in the Lord.

¶ To Polycarp.

The EPISTLE of POLYCARP to the PHILIPPIANS.

[The genuineness of this Epistle is controverted, but implicitly believed by Archbishop Wake, whose translation is below. There is also a translation by Dr. Cave, attached to his life of Polycarp.]

CHAP. I.

Commends the Philippians for their respect to those who suffered for the Gospel; and for their own faith.

POLYCARP, and the presbyters that are with him, to the church of God which ³ is at Philippi: mercy unto you and peace from God Almighty; and the Lord Jesus Christ, our Saviour, be multiplied.

2 I rejoiced greatly with you in our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye received the images of a true love, and accompanied, as it is behooved you, those who were in bonds, becoming saints; which are the crowns of such as are truly chosen by God and our Lord:

3 As also that the ⁴ root of the faith which was preached from ancient times, remains firm in you to this day; and brings forth fruit to our Lord Jesus Christ, who suffered himself to be brought even to the death for our sins.

4 ⁵ Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death, ⁶ whom having not seen, ye love; in whom though now ye see him not, yet believing ye

rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.

5 Into which many desire to enter; ⁷ knowing that by grace ye are saved; not by works, but by the will of God through Jesus Christ.

6 ⁸ Wherefore girding up the loins of your minds; ⁹ serve the Lord with fear, and in truth: laying aside all empty and vain speech, and the error of many; ¹⁰ believing in him that raised up our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, and hath given him glory and a throne at his right hand.

7 To whom all things are made subject, ¹¹ both that are in heaven, and that are in earth; whom every ¹² living creature shall worship; who shall come to be the judge of the quick and dead: whose blood God shall require of them that believe in him.

8 But he that raised up ¹³ Christ from the dead, shall also raise up us in like manner, if we do his will and walk ¹⁴ according to his commandments; and love those things which he loved:

9 Abstaining from all ¹⁵ un-

¹ Vid. Voss. in loc. in the Eternal work. ² Ex. Vet. Interp. Vid. Voss. Annot.

³ Sojourneth. ⁴ Firm root remains in you. ⁵ Acts xi. 24. ⁶ 1 Pet. i. 8.

⁷ Eph. ii. 8. ⁸ 1 Pet. i. 13. ⁹ Psalm ii. 11. ¹⁰ 1 Pet. i. 21. ¹¹ Phil. ii. 10.

¹² Breath. ¹³ Him. ¹⁴ In. ¹⁵ Injustice.