

Letter to the Corinthians (Clement) Please help support the mission of New Advent and get the full contents of website as an instant download. Includes the Catholic Encyclopedia, Church Fathers, Summa, Bible and more \$19.99... Chapter 1. The Salutation. Praise of the Corinthians Before the Breaking Forth of Schism Among The church of God which sojourns at Rome, to the church of God sojourning at Corinth, to them that are called and by the will of God, through our Lord Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, from Almighty God through Jesus multiplied. Owing, dear brethren, to the sudden and successive calamitous events which have happened to our feel that we have been somewhat tardy in turning our attention to the points respecting which you consulted us, especially to that shameful and detestable sedition, utterly abhorrent to the elect of God, which a few rash and self-confident persons have kindled to such a pitch of frenzy, that your venerable and illustrious name, worthy and universally loved, has suffered grievous injury. For who ever dwelt even for a short time among you, and did not your faith to be as fruitful of virtue as it was firmly established? Who did not admire the sobriety and moderation your godliness in Christ? Who did not proclaim the magnificence of your habitual hospitality? And who did not over your perfect and well-grounded knowledge? For you did all things without respect of persons, and walked in the commandments of God, being obedient to those who had the rule over you, and giving all fitting honour to the among you. You enjoined young men to be of a sober and serious mind, you instructed your wives to do all things blameless, becoming, and pure conscience, loving their husbands as in duty bound; and you taught them that, the rule of obedience, they should manage their household affairs becomingly, and be in every respect marked by discretion. Chapter 2. Praise of the Corinthians Continued. Moreover, you were all distinguished by humility, and in no respect puffed up with pride, but yielded obedience rather than extorted it, and were more willing to give than receive. Acts 20:35 Content with the provision which God had made for you, and carefully attending to His word, were inwardly filled with His doctrine, and His sufferings were before your eyes. Thus a profound and abundant grace given to you all, and you had an insatiable desire for doing good, while a full outpouring of the Holy Spirit was upon you all. Full of holy designs, you did, with true earnestness of mind and a godly confidence, stretch forth your hands to God Almighty, beseeching Him to be merciful unto you, if you had been guilty of any involuntary transgression; and night you were anxious for the whole brotherhood, 1 Peter 2:17 that the number of God's elect might be saved by His mercy and a good conscience. You were sincere and uncorrupted, and forgetful of injuries between one another; of faction and schism was abominable in your sight. You mourned over the transgressions of your neighbours: deficiencies you deemed your own. You never grudged any act of kindness, being ready to every good work. Truly Adorned by a thoroughly virtuous and religious life, you did all things in the fear of God. The commandments and ordinances of the Lord were written upon the tablets of your hearts. Proverbs 7:3 Chapter 3. The Sad State of the Corinthian Church After Sedition Arose in It from Envy and Emulation. Every kind of honour and happiness was upon you, and then was fulfilled that which is written, My beloved ate and drank, and was enlarged and became strong. Deuteronomy 32:15 Hence flowed emulation and envy, strife and sedition, persecution and disorder, with captivity. So the worthless rose up against the honoured, those of no reputation against such as were renowned; foolish against the wise, the young against those advanced in years. For this reason righteousness and peace departed from you, inasmuch as every one abandons the fear of God, and has become blind in His faith, neither the ordinances of His appointment, nor acts a part becoming a Christian, but walks after his own wicked lusts, the practice of an unrighteous and ungodly envy, by which death itself entered into the world. Wisdom 2:24 Chapter 4. Many Evils Have Already Flowed from This Source in Ancient Times. For thus it is written: And it came to pass on certain days, that Cain brought of the fruits of the earth a sacrifice unto God; and Abel also brought of the firstlings of his sheep, and of the fat thereof. And God had respect to Abel and to his offerings, but Cain and his sacrifice did not regard. And Cain was deeply grieved, and his countenance fell. And God said to Cain, Why are you grieved? why is your countenance fallen? If you offer rightly, but do not divide rightly, have you not sinned? Be at peace, and your offering returns to yourself, and you shall again possess it. And Cain said to Abel his brother, Let us go into the field. And it came to pass, while they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him before his face, brethren, how envy and jealousy led to the murder of a brother. Through envy, also, our father Jacob fled from the face of Esau his brother. Envy made Joseph be persecuted unto death, and to come into bondage. Genesis 37:36 compelled Moses to flee from the face of Pharaoh king of Egypt, when he heard these words from his fellow-countrymen: Who made you a judge or a ruler over us? Will you kill me, as you killed the Egyptian yesterday? Exodus 2:14

of envy, Aaron and Miriam had to make their abode without the camp. Numbers 12:14-15 Envy brought down Moses alive to Hades, through the sedition which they excited against God's servant Moses. Numbers 16:33 Through envy, not only underwent the hatred of foreigners, but was also persecuted by Saul king of Israel. Chapter 5. No Less Have Arisen from the Same Source in the Most Recent Times. The Martyrdom of Peter and Paul. But not to dwell on ancient examples, let us come to the most recent spiritual heroes. Let us take the noble examples furnished in our generation. Through envy and jealousy the greatest and most righteous pillars [of the church] have been persecuted and put to death. Let us set before our eyes the illustrious apostles. Peter, through unrighteous envy, endured not one, but two, but numerous labours; and when he had at length suffered martyrdom, departed to the place of glory due to him. Owing to envy, Paul also obtained the reward of patient endurance, after being seven times thrown into captivity, compelled to flee, and stoned. After preaching both in the east and west, he gained the illustrious reputation due to his faith, having taught righteousness to the whole world, and come to the extreme limit of the west, and suffered martyrdom under the prefects. Thus was he removed from the world, and went into the holy place, having provided a striking example of patience. Chapter 6. Continuation. Several Other Martyrs. To these men who spent their lives in the practice of holiness, there is to be added a great multitude of the elect, who, having through envy endured many indignities and tortures, furnished us with a most excellent example. Through envy, those women, the Danaids, being persecuted, after they had suffered terrible and unspeakable torments, finished the course of their faith with steadfastness, and though weak in body, received a noble reward. Envy has alienated wives from their husbands, changed that saying of our father Adam, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh. Genesis 2:23 Envy and strife have overthrown great cities, and rooted up mighty nations. Chapter 7. An Exhortation to Repentance. Through these things, beloved, we write unto you, not merely to admonish you of your duty, but also to remind ourselves. For we are struggling on the same arena, and the same conflict is assigned to both of us. Wherefore let us give up vain and fruitless cares, and approach to the glorious and venerable rule of our holy calling. Let us attend to what is good and pleasing, and acceptable in the sight of Him who formed us. Let us look steadfastly to the blood of Christ, and remember that blood is to God which, having been shed for our salvation, has set the grace of repentance before the whole world. Let us turn to every age that has passed, and learn that, from generation to generation, the Lord has granted a place of repentance to all such as would be converted unto Him. Noah preached repentance, and as many as listened to him were saved. Jonah proclaimed destruction to the Ninevites; Jonah lived, but they, repenting of their iniquity, propitiated God by prayer, and obtained salvation, although they were aliens [to the covenant] of God. Chapter 8. Continuation Respecting Repentance. The ministers of the grace of God have, by the Holy Spirit, spoken of repentance, and the Lord of all things has himself declared with an oath regarding it, As I live, says the Lord, I desire not the death of the sinner, but rather his repentance; Ezekiel 33:11 adding, moreover, this gracious declaration, Repent, O house of Israel, of your iniquity. Ezekiel 18:30 Say to the children of my people, Though your sins reach from heaven, and though they be redder than scarlet, and blacker than sack-cloth, yet if you turn to me with your whole heart, and say, Father! I will listen to you, as to a holy people. And in another place He speaks thus: Wash, and become clean; put away the wickedness of your souls from before my eyes; cease from your evil ways, and do well; seek out judgment, deliver the oppressed, judge the fatherless, and see that justice is done to the widow; and come, and let us reason together. He declares, Though your sins be like crimson, I will make them white as snow, though they be like scarlet, I will whiten them like wool. And if you be willing and obey me, you shall eat the good of the land; but if you refuse, and will not hearken unto me, the sword shall devour you, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken these things. Isaiah 1:16-20 Desiring, therefore, that all His beloved should be partakers of repentance, He has by His almighty will, established [these declarations]. Chapter 9. Examples of the Saints. Wherefore, let us yield obedience to His excellent and glorious will; and imploring His mercy and loving-kindness, while we forsake all fruitless labours, strife, and envy, which leads to death, let us turn and have recourse to His compassions. Let us steadfastly consider those who have perfectly ministered to His excellent glory. Let us take (for instance) Enoch, who, being found righteous in obedience, was translated, and death was never known to happen to him. Noah, being found faithful, preached regeneration to the world through his ministry; and the Lord saved by him the animals which, with one accord, he gathered into the ark. Chapter 10. Continuation of the Above. Abraham, styled the friend, was found faithful, inasmuch as he rendered obedience to the words of God. He, in the exercise of obedience, went out from his own country, and from his kindred, and from his father's house, in order that, by forsaking a small territory, and a weak family, and an

insignificant house, he might inherit the promises of God. For God said to him, Get you out from your country, your kindred, and from your father's house, into the land which I shall show you. And I will make you a great nation, and will bless you, and make your name great, and you shall be blessed. And I will bless them that bless you, and them that curse you; and in you shall all the families of the earth be blessed. Genesis 12:1-3 And again, on his departing from Lot, God said to him, Lift up your eyes, and look from the place where you now are, northward, southward, and eastward, and westward; for all the land which you see, to you will I give it, and to your seed for ever. And I will make your seed as the dust of the earth, [so that] if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall your seed also be numbered. Genesis 13:14-16 And again [the] says, God brought forth Abram, and spoke unto him, and said, Look up to heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them; so shall your seed be. And Abram believed God, and it was counted to him for righteousness. On account of his faith and hospitality, a son was given him in his old age; and by the exercise of obedience, he offered him as a sacrifice to God on one of the mountains which He showed him. Continuation. Lot. On account of his hospitality and godliness, Lot was saved out of Sodom when all the country was punished by means of fire and brimstone, the Lord thus making it manifest that He does not forsake those who are in Him, but gives up such as depart from Him to punishment and torture. Genesis xix; cf. 2 Peter 2:6-9 For Lot, who went forth with him, being of a different mind from himself, and not continuing in agreement with him [as to the command which had been given them], was made an example of, so as to be a pillar of salt unto this day. This is to show that all might know that those who are of a double mind, and who distrust the power of God, bring down judgment upon themselves and become a sign to all succeeding generations. Chapter 12. The Rewards of Faith and Hospitality. On account of her faith and hospitality, Rahab the harlot was saved. For when spies were sent by Joshua, the son of Nun, to Jericho, the king of the country ascertained that they had come to spy out their land, and sent men to seize them, with order that, when taken, they might be put to death. But the hospitable Rahab receiving them, concealed them under the eaves of her house under some stalks of flax. And when the men sent by the king arrived and said, There came men unto us here to spy out our land; bring them forth, for so the king commands, she answered them, The two men whom you sought are gone unto me, but quickly departed again and are gone, thus not discovering the spies to them. Then she said to them, I know assuredly that the Lord your God has given you this city, for the fear and dread of you have fallen on its inhabitants. When therefore you shall have taken it, keep ye me and the house of my father in safety. And they said unto her, It shall be as you have spoken to us. As soon, therefore, as you know that we are at hand, you shall gather unto you your family under your roof, and they shall be preserved, but all that are found outside of your dwelling shall be put to death. Moreover, they gave her a sign to this effect, that she should hang forth from her house a scarlet thread. And thus it was made manifest that redemption should flow through the blood of the Lord to all them that believe and hope in Him. We see, beloved, that there was not only faith, but prophecy, in this woman. Chapter 13. An Exhortation to Humility. Therefore, brethren, be of humble mind, laying aside all haughtiness, and pride, and foolishness, and angry feelings, and let us act according to that which is written (for the Holy Spirit says, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, neither let the rich man glory in his riches; but let him that glories glory in the Lord, in diligently seeking Him, and doing judgment and righteousness), being especially mindful of the words of the Lord Jesus which He spoke teaching us meekness and long-suffering. For thus He spoke: Be meek and lowly in heart, and you may obtain mercy; forgive, that it may be forgiven to you; as you do, so shall it be done unto you; as you judge, so shall you be judged; as you are kind, so shall kindness be shown to you; with what measure you measure, with the same shall be measured to you. By this precept and by these rules let us establish ourselves, that we walk with all humility in obedience to His holy words. For the holy word says, On whom shall I look, but on him that is meek and lowly in heart, that trembles at my words? Isaiah 66:2 Chapter 14. We Should Obey God Rather Than the Authors of Sedition. Therefore, men and brethren, rather to obey God than to follow those who, through pride and sedition, have become the leaders of a detestable emulation. For we shall incur no slight injury, but rather great danger, if we yield ourselves to the inclinations of men who aim at exciting strife and tumults, so as to draw us away from the path of good. Let us be kind one to another after the pattern of the tender mercy and benignity of our Creator. For it is written, The kind-hearted shall inhabit the land, and the guiltless shall be left upon it, but transgressors shall be destroyed from off the face of it. Proverbs 2:21-22 And again [the] says, I saw the ungodly highly exalted, and increased up like the cedars of Lebanon: I passed by, and, behold, he was not; and I diligently sought his place, and could not find it. Preserve innocence, and look on equity: for there shall be a remnant to the peaceable man. Chapter 15.

Adhere to Those Who Cultivate Peace, Not to Those Who Merely Pretend to Do So. Let us cleave, therefore, to those who cultivate peace with godliness, and not to those who hypocritically profess to desire it. For [the Lord] says in a certain place, This people honours me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. And again: They bless with their mouth but curse with their heart. And again it says, They loved Him with their mouth, and lied to Him with their tongue; their heart was not right with Him, neither were they faithful in His covenant. Let the deceitful lips become silent [and let the Lord destroy all the lying lips,] and the boastful tongue of those who have said, Let us magnify our tongue: our lips are our own; who is lord over us? For the oppression of the poor, and for the sighing of the needy, will I now arise, says the Lord: I will place him in safety; I will deal confidently with him. Chapter 16. Christ as an Example of Humility. For Christ is of those who are humble-minded, and not of those who exalt themselves over others. Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Sceptre of the majesty of God, did not come in the pomp of pride or arrogance, although He might have done so, but in a lowly condition, as the Holy Spirit had declared regarding Him. For He says, Lord, do not believe our report, and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? We have declared [our message] in His presence as it were, a child, and like a root in thirsty ground; He has no form nor glory, yea, we saw Him, and He had no beauty nor comeliness; but His form was without eminence, yea, deficient in comparison with the [ordinary] form of men; a man exposed to stripes and suffering, and acquainted with the endurance of grief: for His countenance was turned as it were, like a stone; He was despised, and not esteemed. He bears our iniquities, and is in sorrow for our sakes; yet we supposed that we were in His account] He was exposed to labour, and stripes, and affliction. But He was wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we were healed. All like sheep, have gone astray; [every] man has wandered in his own way; and the Lord has delivered Him up for our iniquities. He in the midst of His sufferings opens not His mouth. He was brought as a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before her shearer is dumb, so He opens not His mouth. In His humiliation His judgment was taken away; who shall declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth. For the transgressions of my people was He brought down to death, and I will give the wicked for His sepulchre, and the rich for His death, because He did no iniquity, neither was guile found in His mouth. And the Lord is pleased to purify him by stripes. If you make an offering for sin, your soul shall see a long-lived seed. And the Lord is pleased to relieve Him of the affliction of His soul, to show Him light, and to form Him with understanding, to justify the Just One who ministers well to many; and He Himself shall carry the iniquities. On this account He shall inherit many, and shall divide the spoil of the strong; because His soul was delivered unto death, and He was reckoned among the transgressors, and He bare the sins of many, and for their sins was He crucified. And again He says, I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people. All that see me shall despise me; they have spoken with their lips; they have wagged their head, [saying] He hoped in God, let Him deliver Him. Let Him save Him, since He delights in Him. You see, beloved, what is the example which has been given us; for in this He thus humbled Himself, what shall we do who have through Him come under the yoke of His grace? Chapter 17. Examples of Humility. Let us be imitators also of those who in goat-skins and sheep-skins Hebrews 11:37 went about, proclaiming the coming of Christ; I mean Elijah, Elisha, and Ezekiel among the prophets, with those others to whom such like testimony is borne [in Scripture]. Abraham was specially honoured, and was called the friend of God; yet he, when earnestly regarding the glory of God, humbly declared, I am but dust and ashes. Genesis 18:27 Moreover, it is written of Job, Job was a righteous man, and blameless, truthful, God-fearing, and one that kept himself from all unrighteousness. Job 1:1 But bringing an accusation against himself, he said, No man is free from defilement, even if his life be as long as mine. Job 14:4-5 Moses was called faithful in all God's house; and through his instrumentality, God punished the Egyptians with plagues and tortures. Yet he, though thus greatly honoured, did not adopt lofty language, but said, when the oracle came to him out of the bush, Who am I, that You send me? I am a man of a feeble voice and a slow tongue. And again he said, I am but as the smoke of a pot. Chapter 18. David as an Example of Humility. But what shall we say concerning David, to whom such testimony was borne, and of whom God said, I have found a man after my own heart; the son of Jesse; and in everlasting mercy have I anointed him? Yet this very man says to God, Have mercy on me according to Your great mercy; and according to the multitude of Your compassions, blot out my transgressions, and cleanse me still more from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge mine iniquity, and my sin is ever before me. Against You only have I sinned, and done that which is evil in Your sight; that You may be justified in Your sayings, and may overcome when You are judged. For, behold, I was conceived in transgressions, and in sins did my mother conceive me. For, behold, You have loved truth; the secret and hidden things of wisdom have You shown me.

sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be cleansed; You shall wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. You shall not hear joy and gladness; my bones, which have been humbled, shall exult. Turn away Your face from my sins and all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and establish me by Your governing Spirit. I will teach transgressors Your ways, and the ungodly shall be converted unto You. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation: my tongue shall exult in Your righteousness. O Lord, You shall open my mouth, and my lips shall show forth Your praise. For if You had desired sacrifice, I would have given it; You will not delight in burnt-offerings. The sacrifice [acceptable] to God is a bruised spirit; a broken and a contrite heart God will not despise. Chapter 19. Imitating These Examples, Let Us Seek After Peace. Thus the humility and godly fear of so great and illustrious men have rendered not only us, but also all the generations before us, better; even as we have received His oracles in fear and truth. Wherefore, having so many great and glorious examples set before us, let us turn again to the practice of that peace which from the beginning was the mark set before us; and let us look steadfastly to the Father and Creator of the universe, and cleave to His mighty and surpassingly great gifts and benefactions of peace. Let us contemplate Him with our understanding, and look with the eyes of our soul to His long-suffering will. Let us reflect how free from the wrath He is towards all His creation. Chapter 20. The Peace and Harmony of the Universe. The heavens, revolving under His government, are subject to Him in peace. Day and night, in their course appointed by Him, in no wise hindering each other. The sun and moon, with the companies of the stars, in their harmony according to His command, within their prescribed limits, and without any deviation. The fruitful earth, according to His will, brings forth food in abundance, at the proper seasons, for man and beast and all the living beings upon it, never hesitating, nor changing any of the ordinances which He has fixed. The unsearchable places and abysses, and the indescribable arrangements of the lower world, are restrained by the same laws. The vast unbottomed sea, gathered together by His working into various basins, never passes beyond the bounds placed around it, as He has commanded. For He said, Thus far shall you come, and your waves shall be broken within you. Job 38:11. The impassable to man and the worlds beyond it, are regulated by the same enactments of the Lord. The seasons of summer, autumn, and winter, peacefully give place to one another. The winds in their several quarters fulfil, at the proper time, their service without hindrance. The ever-flowing fountains, formed both for enjoyment and health, without fail their breasts for the life of men. The very smallest of living beings meet together in peace and concord. All these the great Creator and Lord of all has appointed to exist in peace and harmony; while He does good to all, most abundantly to us who have fled for refuge to His compassions through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom be glory and majesty for ever and ever. Amen. Chapter 21. Let Us Obey God, and Not the Authors of Sedition. Chapter 22. The Exhortations are Confirmed by the Christian Faith, Which Proclaims the Misery of Sinful Conduct. Now the faith in Christ confirms all these [admonitions]. For He Himself by the Holy Ghost thus addresses us: Come, you children, and hearken unto me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. What man is he that desires life, and loves to see good conduct? Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking guile. Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears are [open] unto their prayers. The face of the Lord is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. The righteous cried, and the Lord heard him, and delivered him out of all his troubles. Many are the stripes [appointed for] the wicked; but mercy shall compass them that about who hope in the Lord. Chapter 23. Be Humble, and Believe that Christ Will Come Again. The all-merciful and beneficent Father has bowels [of compassion] towards those that fear Him, and kindly and lovingly bestows His gifts upon those who come to Him with a simple mind. Wherefore let us not be double-minded; neither let our souls be troubled on account of His exceedingly great and glorious gifts. Far from us be that which is written, Wretched are they that have of a double mind, and of a doubting heart; who say, These things we have heard even in the times of our fathers, but behold, we have grown old, and none of them has happened unto us; You foolish ones! compare yourselves to [for instance] the vine. First of all, it sheds its leaves, then it buds, next it puts forth leaves, and then it bears flowers; after that comes the sour grape, and then follows the ripened fruit. You perceive how in a little time the fruit of a tree comes to maturity. Of a truth, soon and suddenly shall His will be accomplished, as the also bearing witness, saying, Speedily will He come, and will not tarry; and, The Lord shall suddenly come to His temple, even the Holy One, for whom you look. Malachi 3:1 Chapter 24. God Continually Shows Us in Nature that There Will Be a Resurrection. Let us consider, beloved, how the Lord continually proves to us that there shall be a future resur-

of which He has rendered the Lord Jesus Christ the first-fruits by raising Him from the dead. Let us contemplate the resurrection which is at all times taking place. Day and night declare to us a resurrection. The night sinks to sleep, and the day arises; the day [again] departs, and the night comes on. Let us behold the fruits [of the resurrection on earth], how the sowing of grain takes place. The sower Luke 8:5 goes forth, and casts it into the ground, and the seed being thus scattered, though dry and naked when it fell upon the earth, is gradually dissolved. Then out of its dissolution the mighty power of the providence of the Lord raises it up again, and from one seed many arise and bring forth fruit. Chapter 25. The Phoenix an Emblem of Our Resurrection. Let us consider that wonderful sign [of the resurrection] which takes place in eastern lands, that is, in Arabia and the countries round about. There is a certain bird which is called a phoenix. This is the only one of its kind, and lives five hundred years. And when the time of dissolution draws near that it must die, it builds itself a nest of frankincense, and myrrh, and other spices, into which, when the time is fulfilled, it enters and dies. But as the flesh decays a certain kind of worm is produced, which, being nourished by the juices of the dead bird, brings forth feathers. Then, when it has acquired strength, it takes up that nest in which are the bones of its parent, and bearing these it passes from the land of Arabia into the city called Heliopolis. And, in open day, flying in the sight of all men, it places them on the altar of the sun, and having done this, hastens back to its former abode. The priests then inspect the registers of the dates, and find that it has returned exactly as the five hundredth year was completed. Chapter 26. We Shall Rise Again, Then. Scripture Also Testifies. Do we then deem it any great and wonderful thing for the Maker of all things to raise up those that have piously served Him in the assurance of a good faith, when even by a bird He shows us the mighty power of His power to fulfil His promise? For [the Lord] says in a certain place, You shall raise me up, and I shall confess unto You; and again, I laid me down, and slept; I awoke, because You are with me; and again, Job says, You shall raise up this flesh of mine, which has suffered all these things. Job 19:25-26 Chapter 27. In the Hope of the Resurrection, Let Us Cleave to the Omnipotent and Omniscient God. Having then this hope, let our souls be bound to Him who is the author of His promises, and just in His judgments. He who has commanded us not to lie, shall much more Himself not lie. Nothing is impossible with God, except to lie. Let His faith therefore be stirred up again within us, and let us consider that all things are near unto Him. By the word of His might He established all things, and by His word He overthrew them. Who shall say unto Him, What have you done? Or, Who shall resist the power of His strength? He pleases, He will do all things, and none of the things determined by Him shall pass away. Matthew 24:35 All things are open before Him, and nothing can be hidden from His counsel. The heavens declare the glory of God, and the earth shows His handy-work. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night shows knowledge. And there are no vain speeches of which the voices are not heard. Psalm 19:1-4 Chapter 28. God Sees All Things: Therefore Let Us Forsake Our Transgression. Since then all things are seen and heard [by God], let us fear Him, and forsake those wicked works which proceed from evil desires; so that, through His mercy, we may be protected from the judgments to come. For will any of us flee from His mighty hand? Or what world will receive any of those who run away from Him? For the Lord says in a certain place, Whither shall I go, and where shall I be hid from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; if I go away even to the uttermost parts of the earth, there is Your right hand; if I make my bed in the abyss, there is Your Spirit. Whither, then, shall anyone go, or where shall he escape from Him who comprehends all things? Chapter 29. Let Us Also Draw Near to God in Purity of Heart. Let us then draw near to Him with holiness of spirit, lifting up clean and undefiled hands unto Him, loving our gracious and merciful Father, who has made us partakers in the blessing of His elect. For thus it is written, When the Most High divided the nations, when He scattered the sons of Adam, He determined the bounds of the nations according to the number of the angels of God. His people Jacob became the portion of the Most High, Israel the lot of His inheritance. Deuteronomy 32:8-9 And in another place [the Lord] says, Behold, the Lord takes up for Himself a nation out of the midst of the nations, as a man takes the first-fruits of his threshing-floor; and from this nation shall come forth the Most Holy. Chapter 30. Let Us Do Those Things that Please God, and Flee from Those that We May Be Blessed. Seeing, therefore, that we are the portion of the Holy One, let us do all those things which pertain to holiness, avoiding all evil-speaking, all abominable and impure embraces, together with all drunkenness, seeking after change, all abominable lusts, detestable adultery, and execrable pride. For God, [says the Lord], resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Let us cleave, then, to those to whom grace has been given by God. Let us live ourselves with concord and humility, ever exercising self-control, standing far off from all whispering and evil-speaking, being justified by our works, and not our words. For [the Lord] says, He that speaks much, shall also

much in answer. And does he that is ready in speech deem himself righteous? Blessed is he that is born of woman, who lives but a short time: be not given to much speaking. Let our praise be in God, and not of ourselves; for God hates those that commend themselves. Let testimony to our good deeds be borne by others, as it was in the case of our righteous forefathers. Boldness, and arrogance, and audacity belong to those that are accursed of God; but meekness, and humility, and meekness to such as are blessed by Him. Chapter 31. Let Us See by What Means We May Obtain His Blessing. Let us cleave then to His blessing, and consider what are the means of possessing it. Let us think over the things which have taken place from the beginning. For what reason was our father Abraham blessed? Was it not because he wrought righteousness and truth through faith? Isaac, James 2:21 with perfect confidence, as if knowing what would happen, cheerfully yielded himself as a sacrifice. Genesis 22:6-10 Jacob, through reason of his brother, went forth with humility from his own land, and came to Laban and served him; and there was given to him the sceptre of the twelve tribes of Israel. Chapter 32. We are Justified Not by Our Own Works, But by Faith. Whosoever will candidly consider the particular, will recognise the greatness of the gifts which were given by him. For from him have sprung the priests of all the Levites who minister at the altar of God. From him also [was descended] our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh. Romans 9:5 From him [arose] kings, princes, and rulers of the race of Judah. Nor are his other tribes in such glory, inasmuch as God had promised, Your seed shall be as the stars of heaven. All these, therefore, were highly honoured, and made great, not for their own sake, or for their own works, or for the righteousness which they wrought, but through the operation of His will. And we, too, being called by His will in Christ Jesus, are not justified by our own selves, nor by our own wisdom, or understanding, or godliness, or works which we have wrought in holiness, but by that faith through which, from the beginning, Almighty God has justified all men; to whom be glory for ever. Amen. Chapter 33. But Let Us Not Give Up the Practice of Good Works and Love. God Himself is an Example of Good Works. What shall we do, then, brethren? Shall we become slothful in well-doing, and cease from the practice of love? God forbid that any such course should be followed by us! But rather let us hasten with all energy and readiness of mind to perform every good work. For the Creator and Lord of all Himself rejoices in His works. For by His infinite great power He established the heavens, and by His incomprehensible wisdom He adorned them. He also divided the water from the water which surrounds it, and fixed it upon the immovable foundation of His own will. The animals also which are upon it He commanded by His own word into existence. So likewise, when He had formed the sea, and the creatures which are in it, He enclosed them [within their proper bounds] by His own power. Above all, with His undefiled hands He formed man, the most excellent [of His creatures], and truly great through the understanding of him - the express likeness of His own image. For thus says God: Let us make man in our image, and after our likeness. God made man; male and female He created them. Genesis 1:26-27 Having thus finished all these things, He blessed them, and said, Increase and multiply. Genesis 1:28 We see, then, how all righteous men have been blessed with good works, and how the Lord Himself, adorning Himself with His works, rejoiced. Having therefore such an example, let us without delay accede to His will, and let us work the work of righteousness with our whole strength. Chapter 34. Great is the Reward of Good Works with God. Joined Together in Harmony, Let Us Implore that Reward from Him. Every servant receives the bread of his labour with confidence; the lazy and slothful cannot look his employer in the face. It is requisite, therefore, that we be prompt in the practice of well-doing; for of Him are all things. And thus He forewarns us: Behold, the Lord [comes], and His reward is before His face, to render to every man according to his works. He exhorts us, therefore, with our whole heart to attend to this, that we be not lazy or slothful in any good work, but that our boasting and our confidence be in Him. Let us submit ourselves to His will. Let us consider the whole multitude of His angels, how they stand ever ready to minister to His will. For the Lord says, Ten thousand times ten thousand stand around Him, and thousands of thousands ministered unto Him, Daniel 7:10 and cried, Holy, holy, holy, [is] the Lord of Sabaoth; the whole creation is full of His glory. Isaiah 6:3 And let us therefore, conscientiously gathering together in harmony, cry to Him earnestly, as with one mouth, that we may be made partakers of His great and glorious promises. [the Lord] says, Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which He has prepared for them that wait for Him. 1 Corinthians 2:9 Chapter 35. Immense is This Reward. How Shall We Obtain It? Blessed and wonderful, beloved, are the gifts of God! Life in immortality, splendour in righteousness, truth in peace, confidence, faith in assurance, self-control in holiness! And all these fall under the cognizance of our understanding [now]; what then shall those things be which are prepared for such as wait for Him? The Creator and Father of all worlds, the Most Holy, alone knows their amount and their beauty. Let us therefore earnestly strive to be found

number of those that wait for Him, in order that we may share in His promised gifts. But how, beloved, shall this be done? If our understanding be fixed by faith towards God; if we earnestly seek the things which are pleasing and acceptable to Him; if we do the things which are in harmony with His blameless will; and if we follow the way of casting away from us all unrighteousness and iniquity, along with all covetousness, strife, evil practices, deceit, whispering, and evil-speaking, all hatred of God, pride and haughtiness, vain glory and ambition. For they that do these things are hateful to God; and not only they that do them, but also those that take pleasure in them that do them. Romans 1:32 For he says, But to the sinner God said, Wherefore do you declare my statutes, and take my commandments, seeing you hate instruction, and castest my words behind you? When you saw a thief, you consented, and made your portion with adulterers. Your mouth has abounded with wickedness, and your tongue contrived evil; sit, and speak against your brother; you slander your own mother's son. These things you have done, and I knew you thought, wicked one, that I should be like to yourself. But I will reprove you, and set yourself before you. Consider now these things, you that forget God, lest He tear you in pieces, like a lion, and there be none to deliver you. The sacrifice of praise will glorify me, and a way is there by which I will show him the salvation of God. Chapter 38. All Blessings are Given to Us Through Christ. This is the way, beloved, in which we find our Saviour, even Jesus, the High Priest of all our offerings, the defender and helper of our infirmity. By Him we look up to the heights of heaven. By Him we behold, as in a glass, His immaculate and most excellent visage. By Him are the eyes of our hearts opened. By Him our foolish and darkened understanding blossoms up anew towards His marvellous light. By Him He willed that we should taste of immortal knowledge, who, being the brightness of His majesty, is by so much greater than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. Hebrews 1:3-4 For it is thus with Him that makes His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire. But concerning His Son the Lord spoke thus: You are my Father, today have I begotten You. Ask of me, and I will give You the heathen for Your inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for Your possession. And again He says to Him, Sit at my right hand, until I make Your enemies Your footstool. But who are His enemies? All the wicked, and those who set themselves to oppose the will of God. Chapter 37. We are His People, Our Leader, and We His Soldiers. Let us then, men and brethren, with all energy act the part of soldiers, in accordance with His holy commandments. Let us consider those who serve under our generals, with what order, obedience, and submissiveness they perform the things which are commanded them. All are not prefects, nor commanders of a hundred, nor of fifty, nor the like, but each one in his own rank performs the things commanded by the king or the generals. The great cannot subsist without the small, nor the small without the great. There is a kind of mixture of things, and thence arises mutual advantage. Let us take our body for an example. The head is nothing without the feet, and the feet are nothing without the head; yea, the very smallest members of our body are necessary and useful to the whole body. But all work harmoniously together, and are under one common rule for the preservation of the whole. Let our whole body, then, be preserved in Christ Jesus; and let every one be subject to his neighbour, according to the special gift bestowed upon him. Let the strong not despise the weak, and let the weak show respect unto the strong. Let the rich man provide for the wants of the poor; and let the poor man bless God, because He has given him one to whom his need may be supplied. Let the wise man display his wisdom, not by [mere] words, but through good deeds. Let him not bear testimony to himself, but leave witness to be borne to him by another. Proverbs 27:2 Let him that is proud of the flesh not grow proud of it, and boast, knowing that it was another who bestowed on him the gift of continence. Let us consider, then, brethren, of what matter we were made - who and what manner of beings we came into the world; we were out of a sepulchre, and from utter darkness. He who made us and fashioned us, having prepared His bowels for us before we were born, introduced us into His world. Since, therefore, we receive all these things from Him, let us ought for everything to give Him thanks; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. Chapter 39. There is No Room for Self-Conceit. Foolish and inconsiderate men, who have neither wisdom nor instruction, mock and deride us, because we exalt ourselves in their own conceits. For what can a mortal man do, or what strength is there in one made of dust? For it is written, There was no shape before my eyes, only I heard a sound, and a voice [saying], What shall I say? For a man be pure before the Lord? Or shall such an one be [counted] blameless in his deeds, seeing He does not spare His servants, and has charged even His angels with perversity? The heaven is not clean in His sight: how much less those that dwell in houses of clay, of which also we ourselves were made! He smote them as a moth; and from morning to evening they endure not. Because they could furnish no assistance to themselves, they perished. He breathed upon them, and they died, because they had no wisdom. But call now, if any one will answer you, or if you will look to any

holy angels; for wrath destroys the foolish man, and envy kills him that is in error. I have seen the foolish taking root, but their habitation was presently consumed. Let their sons be far from safety; let them be despised before the gates of those less than themselves, and there shall be none to deliver. For what was prepared for them, the righteous shall eat; and they shall not be delivered from evil. Chapter 40. Let Us Preserve in the Church the Order Appointed by God. These things therefore being manifest to us, and since we look into the depths of the divine knowledge, it behooves us to do all things in [their proper] order, which the Lord has commanded us to perform at stated times. He has appointed offerings [to be presented] and service to be performed [to Him], and that not thoughtlessly or irregularly, but at appointed times and hours. Where and by whom He desires these things to be done, He Himself has fixed by His will, in order that all things, being piously done according to His good pleasure, may be acceptable unto Him. Therefore, who present their offerings at the appointed times, are accepted and blessed; for inasmuch as they follow the laws of the Lord, they sin not. For his own peculiar services are assigned to the high priest, and their own proper place is prescribed to the priests, and their own special ministrations devolve on the Levites. The layman is bound to the laws that pertain to laymen. Chapter 41. Continuation of the Same Subject. Let every one of you, brethren, thank God in his own order, living in all good conscience, with becoming gravity, and not going beyond the ministry prescribed to him. Not in every place, brethren, are the daily sacrifices offered, or the peace-offerings or the sin-offerings and the trespass-offerings, but in Jerusalem only. And even there they are not offered in any place, but only at the altar before the temple, that which is offered being first carefully examined by the high priest and the ministers already mentioned. Those, therefore, who do anything beyond that which is agreeable to His will, are punished with death. You see, brethren, that the greater the knowledge that has been vouchsafed to us, the greater is the danger to which we are exposed. Chapter 42. The Order of Ministers in the Church. The apostles have preached the gospel to us from the Lord Jesus Christ; Jesus Christ [has done so] from God. Christ therefore was sent forth by God, and the apostles by Christ. Both these appointments, then, were made in an orderly way, according to the will of God. Having therefore received their orders, and being fully assured by the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, and established in the word of God, with full assurance of the Holy Ghost, they went forth proclaiming that the kingdom of God was at hand. And thus preaching through countries and cities, they appointed the first fruits [of their labour], having first proved them by the Spirit, to be bishops and deacons of those who should afterwards believe. Nor was there any new thing, since indeed many ages before it was written concerning bishops and deacons. For thus says the Lord by certain places, I will appoint their bishops in righteousness, and their deacons in faith. Chapter 43. Moses of Old Stilled the Contention Which Arose Concerning the Priestly Dignity. And what wonder is it if those in Christ who were entrusted with such a duty by God, appointed those [ministers] before mentioned, when the blessed Moses also, his servant in all his house, noted down in the sacred books all the injunctions which were given him, and when the prophets also followed him, bearing witness with one consent to the ordinances which he had appointed? For, when a contention arose concerning the priesthood, and the tribes were contending among themselves as to which of them should have with that glorious title, he commanded the twelve princes of the tribes to bring him their rods, each one being inscribed with the name of the tribe. And he took them and bound them [together], and sealed them with the rings of the princes of the tribes, and laid them up in the tabernacle of witness on the table of God. And having shut the door of the tabernacle, he sealed the keys, as he had done the rods, and said to them, Men and brethren, the tribe of Judah, which shall blossom has God chosen to fulfil the office of the priesthood, and to minister unto Him. And when the multitude came, he assembled all Israel, six hundred thousand men, and showed the seals to the princes of the tribes, and the tabernacle of witness, and brought forth the rods. And the rod of Aaron was found not only to have blossomed, but to bear fruit upon it. What think ye, beloved? Did not Moses know beforehand that this would happen? Undoubtedly; but he acted thus, that there might be no sedition in Israel, and that the name of the true and only God might be glorified; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. Chapter 44. The Ordinances of the Apostles, that There Might Be No Contention Respecting the Priestly Office. Our apostles also knew, through our Lord Jesus Christ, that there would be strife on account of the office of the episcopate. For this reason, therefore, inasmuch as they had obtained a perfect fore-knowledge of this, they appointed those [ministers] already mentioned, and afterwards gave instructions, that when these should fall asleep, other approved men should succeed them in their ministry. We are of opinion, therefore, that those appointed by them, or afterwards by other eminent men, with the consent of the whole church, and who have blamelessly served the flock of Christ, in a humble, peaceable, and disinterested spirit, and have for a long time

possessed the good opinion of all, cannot be justly dismissed from the ministry. For our sin will not be small, if we eject from the episcopate those who have blamelessly and holily fulfilled its duties. Blessed are those presbyters who having finished their course before now, have obtained a fruitful and perfect departure [from this world]; for there is no fear lest any one deprive them of the place now appointed them. But we see that you have removed some men for excellent behaviour from the ministry, which they fulfilled blamelessly and with honour. Chapter 45. It is the Part of the Wicked to Vex the Righteous. You are fond of contention, brethren, and full of zeal about things which do not pertain to salvation. Look carefully into the scriptures, which are the true utterances of the Holy Spirit. Observe that nothing of an unjust or counterfeit character is written in them. There you will not find that the righteous were cast off by men who themselves were holy. The righteous were indeed persecuted, but only by the wicked. They were cast off, but only by the unholy; they were stoned, but only by transgressors; they were slain, but only by the accursed, as had conceived an unrighteous envy against them. Exposed to such sufferings, they endured them gloriously. Shall we say, brethren? Was Daniel Daniel 6:16 cast into the den of lions by such as feared God? Were Ananias, Azarias, and Michael shut up in a furnace Daniel 3:20 of fire by those who observed the great and glorious works of the Most High? Far from us be such a thought! Who, then, were they that did such things? The hateful, and those full of wickedness, were roused to such a pitch of fury, that they inflicted torture on those who served God with a holy and blameless purpose [of heart], not knowing that the Most High is the Defender and Protector of all such as with a clear conscience venerate His all-excellent name; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. But they who with confidence endured [these things] are now heirs of glory and honour, and have been exalted and made illustrious by God as a memorial for ever and ever. Amen. Chapter 46. Let Us Cleave to the Righteous: Your Strife is Pernicious. Such a course, therefore, brethren, it is right that we should follow; since it is written, Cleave to the holy, for those that cleave to them shall [themselves] be made holy. And again, in another place, [the Lord] says, With a harmless man you shall show yourself harmless, and with an elect man you shall be elect, and with a perverse man you shall show yourself perverse. Let us cleave, therefore, to the innocent and righteous, since these are the elect of God. Why are there strifes, and tumults, and divisions, and schisms, and wars among you? Have we not [all] one God and one Christ? Is there not one Spirit of grace poured out upon us? And have we not one calling in Christ? Ephesians 4:4-6 Why do we divide the pieces of the members of Christ, and raise up strife against our own body, and have reached such a height of madness, that we forget that we are members one of another? Romans 12:5 Remember the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, how He said of that man [by whom offenses come]! It were better for him that he had never been born, than that he should cause a stumbling-block before one of my elect. Yea, it were better for him that a millstone should be hung about [his neck], and he should be sunk in the depths of the sea, than that he should cast a stumbling-block before one of my little children. Your schism has subverted [the faith of] many, has discouraged many, has given rise to doubt in many, and has brought grief to us all. And still your sedition continues. Chapter 47. Your Recent Discord is Worse Than the Former Wars in the Place in the Times of Paul. Take up the epistle of the blessed Apostle Paul. What did he write to you at the time when the gospel first began to be preached? Truly, under the inspiration of the Spirit, he wrote to you concerning him who was called Mark, and Cephas, and Apollos, because even then parties had been formed among you. But that inclination for one another entailed less guilt upon you, inasmuch as your partialities were then shown towards apostles, already of high reputation, and towards a man whom they had approved. But now reflect who those are that have perverted you, who have lessened the renown of your far-famed brotherly love. It is disgraceful, beloved, yea, highly disgraceful, and unworthy of your Christian profession, that such a thing should be heard of as that the most steadfast and ancient church of the Corinthians should, on account of one or two persons, engage in sedition against its presbyters. And this rumour reached not only us, but those also who are unconnected with us; so that, through your infatuation, the name of Christ is blasphemed, while danger is also brought upon yourselves. Chapter 48. Let Us Return to the Practice of Brotherly Love. Let us therefore, with all haste, put an end to this [state of things]; and let us fall down before the Lord, and beseech Him with tears, that He would mercifully be reconciled to us, and restore us to our former seemly and peaceable practice of brotherly love. For [such conduct] is the gate of righteousness, which is set open for the attainment of life, as it is written, Open to me the gates of righteousness; I will go in by them, and will praise the Lord: this is the gate of the Lord: the righteous shall enter in by it. Although, therefore, many gates have been set open, yet the true gate of righteousness is that gate in Christ by which blessed are all they that have entered in and have directed their way in holiness and righteousness, doing all things without disorder. Let a man be faithful: let him be powerful

utterance of knowledge; let him be wise in judging of words; let him be pure in all his deeds; yet the more he so be superior to others [in these respects], the more humble-minded ought he to be, and to seek the common good and not merely his own advantage. Chapter 49. The Praise of Love. Let him who has love in Christ keep the commandments of Christ. Who can describe the [blessed] bond of the love of God? What man is able to tell the excellence of its beauty, as it ought to be told? The height to which love exalts is unspeakable. Love unites us to God. Love covers multitude of sins. Love bears all things, is long-suffering in all things. There is nothing base, nothing arrogant in love. Love admits of no schisms: love gives rise to no seditions: love does all things in harmony. By love have the elect of God been made perfect; without love nothing is well-pleasing to God. In love has the Lord taken us to Himself. On account of the love He bore us, Jesus Christ our Lord gave His blood for us by the will of God; His flesh for our flesh, and His soul for our souls. Chapter 50. Let Us Pray to Be Thought Worthy of Love. You see, beloved, how wonderful a thing is love, and that there is no declaring its perfection. Who is fit to be found in it, except such as God has vouchsafed to render so? Let us pray, therefore, and implore of His mercy, that we may live blameless and free from all human partialities for one above another. All the generations from Adam even unto this day have passed away; but those who, through the grace of God, have been made perfect in love, now possess a place among the elect, shall be made manifest at the revelation of the kingdom of Christ. For it is written, Enter into your secret chambers for a little time, until my wrath and fury pass away; and I will remember a propitious day, and will raise you up out of your graves. Isaiah 26:20 Blessed are we, beloved, if we keep the commandments of God in the harmony of love, through love our sins may be forgiven us. For it is written, Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will not impute to him, and in whose mouth there is no guile. This blessedness comes upon those who have been chosen by God through Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom we belong ever and ever. Amen. Chapter 51. Let the Partakers in Strife Acknowledge Their Sins. Let us therefore implore of God forgiveness for all those transgressions which through any [suggestion] of the adversary we have committed. And those who have been the leaders of sedition and disagreement ought to have respect to the common hope. For such as fear and love would rather that they themselves than their neighbours should be involved in suffering. And they ought to bear blame themselves, rather than that the concord which has been well and piously handed down to us should be broken. For it is better that a man should acknowledge his transgressions than that he should harden his heart, as the Pharisees and those were hardened who stirred up sedition against Moses the servant of God, and whose condemnation was [unto all]. For they went down alive into Hades, and death swallowed them up. Pharaoh with his army and all the Egyptians, and the chariots with their riders, were sunk in the depths of the Red Sea, and perished, Exodus xiv for no other reason than that their foolish hearts were hardened, after so many signs and wonders had been wrought in Egypt by Moses the servant of God. Chapter 52. Such a Confession is Pleasing to God. The Lord, brethren, desires the need of nothing; and He desires nothing of any one except that confession be made to Him. For, says the elect, I will confess unto the Lord; and that will please Him more than a young bullock that has horns and hoofs. Let them see it, and be glad. And again he says, Offer unto God the sacrifice of praise, and pay your vows unto the Most High. And call upon me in the day of your trouble: I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me. For the sacrifice of God is a broken spirit. Chapter 53. The Love of Moses Towards His People. You understand, beloved, you understand the Scriptures, and you have looked very earnestly into the oracles of God. Call then these things to your remembrance. Moses went up into the mount, and abode there, with fasting and humiliation, forty days and forty nights, the Lord said to him, Moses, Moses, get you down quickly from hence; for your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have committed iniquity. They have speedily departed from the way in which I commanded them to walk, and have made themselves molten images. And the Lord said to him, I have spoken to you once and again, saying, I have seen the hardness of your people, and, behold, it is a stiff-necked people: let me destroy them, and blot out their name from under heaven. But you will make you a great and wonderful nation, and one much more numerous than this. But Moses said, Far be it from the Lord: pardon the sin of this people; else blot me also out of the book of the living. Exodus 32:32 O marvellous and insuperable perfection! The servant speaks freely to his Lord, and asks forgiveness for the people, or begs that he himself might perish along with them. Chapter 54. He Who is Full of Love Will Incur Every Loss, that Peace May Be Restored to the Church. Who then among you is noble-minded? Who compassionate? Who full of love? Let him who on my account sedition and disagreement and schisms have arisen, I will depart, I will go away wherever ye desire. I will do whatever the majority commands; only let the flock of Christ live on terms of peace with the presbyters and

it. He that acts thus shall procure to himself great glory in the Lord; and every place will welcome him. For the reward is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof. These things they who live a godly life that is never to be repented of, but which they have done and always will do. Chapter 55. Examples of Such Love. To bring forward some examples from among the ancients. Many kings and princes, in times of pestilence, when they had been instructed by an oracle, have given themselves to death, in order that by their own blood they might deliver their fellow citizens [from destruction]. Many have gone forth from their own cities, that so sedition might be brought to an end within them. We know many among ourselves have given themselves up to bonds, in order that they might ransom others. Many, too, have surrendered themselves to slavery, that with the price which they received for themselves, they might provide food for others. Many women, being strengthened by the grace of God, have performed numerous manly exploits. The blessed Judith, when the camp was besieged, asked of the elders permission to go forth into the camp of the strangers; and, exposing herself to danger, she went out for the love which she bore to her country and people then besieged; and the Lord delivered Holofernes into the hands of a woman. Judith 8:30 Esther also, being perfect in faith, exposed herself to no less danger, in order to deliver the twelve tribes of Israel from impending destruction. For with fasting and humiliation she entreated the everlasting God, who sees all things; and He, perceiving the humility of her spirit, delivered the people for whom she had encountered peril. Chapter 56. Let Us Admonish and Correct One Another. Let us then also pray for those who have fallen into any sin, that meekness and humility may be given to them, so that they may submit, not unto us, but unto the will of God. For in this way they shall secure a fruitful and perfect remembrance from us, with sympathy for their sins in our prayers to God, and our mention of them to the saints. Let us receive correction, beloved, on account of our sins; for no one should feel displeased. Those exhortations by which we admonish one another are both good [in themselves] and highly profitable, for they tend to unite us to the will of God. For thus says the holy Word: The Lord has severely chastened me, yet has not given me over to death. For whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every one whom He receives. The righteous, says it, shall chasten me in mercy, and reprove me; but let not the oil of sinners make my head. And again he says, Blessed is the man whom the Lord reproves, and reject not the warning of the Almighty. He causes sorrow, and again restores [to gladness]; He wounds, and His hands make whole. He shall deliver you from all troubles, yea, in the seventh no evil shall touch you. In famine He shall rescue you from death, and in war He shall free you from the power of the sword. From the scourge of the tongue will He hide you, and you shall not fear reproach. When it comes. You shall laugh at the unrighteous and the wicked, and shall not be afraid of the beasts of the field. For you and the wild beasts shall be at peace with you: then shall you know that your house shall be in peace, and the habitation of your tabernacle shall not fail. You shall know also that your seed shall be great, and your children like the grass of the field. And you shall come to the grave like ripened grain which is reaped in its season, or like a heap of the threshing-floor which is gathered together at the proper time. Job 5:17-26 You see, beloved, that protection is given to those that are chastened of the Lord; for since God is good, He corrects us, that we may be admonished by His chastisement. You therefore, who laid the foundation of this sedition, submit yourselves to the presbyters, and receive correction so as to repent, bending the knees of your hearts. Learn to be subject, laying aside the proud and arrogant self-confidence of your tongue. For it is better for you that you should occupy a humble but honourable place in the flock of Christ, than that, being highly exalted, you should be cast out from the hope of His people. For thus speaks the all-virtuous Wisdom: Behold, I will bring forth to you the words of my Spirit, and I will teach you my speech. Since I have called, and you did not hear; I held forth my words, and you regarded not, but set at naught my counsels, and did not heed not at my reproofs; therefore I too will laugh at your destruction; yea, I will rejoice when ruin comes upon you, and when sudden confusion overtakes you, when overturning presents itself like a tempest, or when tribulation and affliction fall upon you. For it shall come to pass, that when you call upon me, I will not hear you; the wicked shall seek me, they shall not find me. For they hated wisdom, and did not choose the fear of the Lord; nor would they listen to my counsels, but despised my reproofs. Wherefore they shall eat the fruits of their own way, and they shall be filled with their own ungodliness. Proverbs 1:22-33 ...For, in punishment for the wrongs which they practised upon babes, they shall be slain, and inquiry will be death to the ungodly; but he that hears me shall rest in hope and be undisturbed by the fear of any evil. Chapter 58. Submission the Precursor of Salvation. Let us, therefore, flee from the warning threatened and pronounced by Wisdom on the disobedient, and yield submission to His all-holy and glorious name, that we may trust upon the most hallowed name of His majesty. Receive our counsel, and you shall be without repentance. For the lives, and as the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost live - both the faith and hope of the elect, he who in low

of mind, with instant gentleness, and without repentance has observed the ordinances and appointments given same shall obtain a place and name in the number of those who are being saved through Jesus Christ, through glory to Him for ever and ever. Amen. Chapter 59. Warning Against Disobedience. Prayer. If, however, any shall the words spoken by Him through us, let them know that they will involve themselves in transgression and sin; but we shall be innocent of this sin, and, instant in prayer and supplication, shall desire that the Creator of all preserve unbroken the computed number of His elect in the whole world through His beloved Son Jesus Christ. He called us from darkness to light, from ignorance to knowledge of the glory of His name, our hope resting on which is primal cause of every creature · having opened the eyes of our heart to the knowledge of You, who art highest among the highest, holy among the holy, Isaiah 57:15 who layest low the insolence of the haughty, Isaiah who destroyest the calculations of the heathen, who settest the low on high and bringest low the exalted; who art rich and makest poor, 1 Samuel 2:7 who killest and makest to live, Deuteronomy 32:39 only Benefactor of spirits of all flesh, who beholdest the depths, the eye-witness of human works, the help of those in danger, the Saviour of those in despair, the Creator and Guardian of every spirit, who multiplieth nations upon earth, and from all mankind of those who love You through Jesus Christ, Your beloved Son, through whom You instructed, sanctify, honour have You, Lord, to prove our help and succour. Those of us in affliction save, on the lowly take pity; the fallen rise upon those in need arise; the sick heal; the wandering ones of Your people turn; fill the hungry; redeem those from bonds; raise up those that are weak; comfort the faint-hearted; let all the nations know that You are God alone Jesus Christ Your Son, and we are Your people and the sheep of Your pasture. Chapter 60. Prayer Continued. Let appear the enduring fabric of the world by the works of Your hand; You, Lord, created the earth on which we dwell who is faithful in all generations, just in judgments, wonderful in strength and majesty, with wisdom creating and understanding fixing the things which were made, who art good among them that are being saved and faithful to whose trust is in You; O merciful and Compassionate One, forgive us our iniquities and offenses and transgressions and trespasses. Reckon not every sin of Your servants and handmaids, but You will purify us with the purification of truth; and direct our steps that we may walk in holiness of heart and do what is good and well-pleasing in Your sight and in the sight of our rulers. Yea, Lord, make Your face to shine upon us for good in peace, that we may be saved by Your mighty hand and delivered from every sin by Your uplifted arm, and deliver us from those who hate us without mercy. Give concord and peace to us and all who dwell upon the earth, even as You gave to our fathers, when they came to You in faith and truth, submissive as we are to Your almighty and all-excellent Name. Chapter 61. Prayer Continued. Rulers and Governors. Conclusion. To our rulers and governors on the earth · to them You, Lord, gave the power of the kingdom by Your glorious and ineffable might, to the end that we may know the glory and honour given to them and be subject to them, in nought resisting Your will; to them, Lord, give health, peace, concord, stability, that they may exercise the authority given to them without offense. For You, O heavenly Lord and King eternal, givest to the rulers men glory and honour and power over the things that are on the earth; do Thou, Lord, direct their counsel according to that which is good and well-pleasing in Your sight, that, devoutly in peace and meekness exercising the power given by You, they may find You propitious. O Thou, who only has power to do these things and more abundant goodness, praise You through the High Priest and Guardian of our souls Jesus Christ, through whom be glory and majesty now and from generation to generation and for evermore. Amen. Chapter 62. Summary and Conclusory · Concerning the things pertaining to our religious observance which are most profitable for a life of goodness to those who would pursue a godly and righteous course, we have written to you, men and brethren, at sufficient length concerning faith and repentance and true love and continence and soberness and patience, we have touched upon this passage, putting you in mind that you ought in righteousness and truth and long-suffering to be well-pleasing to the Almighty God with holiness, being of one mind · not remembering evil · in love and peace with instant gentleness · also our fathers forementioned found favour by the humility of their thoughts towards the Father and God and towards all mankind. And of these things we put you in mind with the greater pleasure, since we were well assured that in writing to men who were faithful and of highest repute and had peered into the oracles of the instruction of God. Chapter 63. Hortatory, Letter Sent by Special Messengers. Right is it, therefore, to approach examples so good and many, and submit the neck and fulfil the part of obedience, in order that, undisturbed by vain sedition, we may come unto the goal set before us in truth wholly free from blame. Joy and gladness will you afford us, if you become obedient to the words written by us and through the Holy Spirit root out the lawless wrath of your jealousy according to the

intercession which we have made for peace and unity in this letter. We have sent men faithful and discreet, whose conversation from youth to old age has been blameless among us · the same shall be witnesses between you and us · have done, that you may know that our whole concern has been and is that you may be speedily at peace. Chapter 64. Blessings Sought for All that Call Upon God. May God, who sees all things, and who is the Ruler of all spirits and the Lord of all flesh · who chose our Lord Jesus Christ and us through Him to be a peculiar Titus 2:14 people · grant to every soul that calls upon His glorious and holy name, faith, fear, peace, patience, long-suffering, self-control, purity, and sobriety, to the well-pleasing of His name, through our High Priest and Protector, Jesus Christ, by whom we live to Him glory, and majesty, and power, and honour, both now and for evermore. Amen. Chapter 65. The Corinthians Exhorted Speedily to Send Back Word that Peace Has Been Restored. The Benediction. Send back speedily to us with joy these our messengers to you: Claudius Ephebus and Valerius Bito, with Fortunatus; that they may the more announce to us the peace and harmony we so earnestly desire and long for [among you], and that we may the more rejoice over the good order re-established among you. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you, and with all the churches everywhere that are the called of God through Him, by whom be to Him glory, honour, power, majesty, and eternal dominion, from everlasting to everlasting. Amen. About this page Source. Translated by John Keith. From Ante-Nicene Fathers, Vol. 9. Edited by Allan Menzies. (Buffalo, NY: Christian Literature Publishing Co., 1896.) Revised and updated for New Advent by Kevin Knight. <<http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/1010.htm>>. Contact information. The editor of New Advent is Kevin Knight. My email address is feedback732@newadvent.org. (To help fight spam, this address changes occasionally.) Regrettably, I can't reply to every letter, but I greatly appreciate your feedback · especially notifications about typographical errors and inappropriate ads.