Worcester F 80 Distinctiones

221 Net (*Rethe*)

Net. “Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a draught,” Luke 5[:4]. The waters are the people, the sea is the world, the ship is the Church, the deep is the heavens, the apostles are the seat of power. One, that is, Peter is called the leader in the deep. But more often it is said, “Let down your nets,” that is, preach. And just as the sea is always bitter and turbulent, so is the world. Nowhere is peace, security, or quiet, but fear, labor, and sorrow.

¶ For [1 John 5:19]: “The world is seated in wickedness.” Where laughter is mixed with sorrow, where just as in the sea the greater ones devour the lesser ones, Psal. [13:4]: “Who devour my people as they eat bread.” And in Eccli. [13:23]: “The wild ass is the lion's prey in the desert, so also, the poor are devoured by the rich.” Whatever folly the kings commit, the Achaeans pay the penalty.[[1]](#endnote-1)

¶ Again, just as a net is woven with many and various threads and strings and nodes, so a sermon is woven from diverse authorities, reasons, examples, figures, similitudes, and senses. It proceeds now simply, now subtly, now about pains, now about rewards, now about vices, now about virtues. So now that may be true, that poetic, singular, and that they may hold the place selected properly.

¶ Again in nets are captured fish in water, birds in the air, beasts on land. So, in preaching the voluptuous are recalled to continency, the proud to humility, the violent to calmness.

1. Cf. Horace, *Epistles* 1.2.14 (LCL 194: 262-263): quidquid delirant reges, plectuntur Achivi.

Whatever folly the kings commit, the Achaeans pay the penalty. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)