Worcester F 80 Distinctiones

247 Talent (*Talentum*)

The talent among diverse people is diverse. For among the Greeks such as the *calcus* nothing is less, so for the talent in weights. Nothing is greater among the Romans; the talent is seventy-two pounds.

¶ However, there are five kinds of talents, namely, of gold, silver, brass, iron, and lead, just as it is touched on in [1] Paralip. last chapter [20:2], and Zach. 5[:7], and Matt. 25[:15]: “And to one he gave five talents,” etc. By the five talents is understood the five kinds of goods which God gave to man, namely, the good of nature for working, which is figured by the talent of brass which does not corrupt, Gen. 2[:15]: “God put man, into the paradise, to dress it, and to keep it.” Again, the good of grace for working together which is designated by the talent of gold, because among the metals it is the most precious, 1 Cor. 3[:10]: “I have labored more abundantly than all they, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.”

¶ Again, the good of knowledge for teaching, which is designated by the talent of silver, Psal. [11:7]: “The words of the Lord are pure words,” etc. Again, the good power for defending, which is designated by the talent of iron, which is malleable of all the metals, Psal. [2:9]: “You shall rule them with a rod of iron.”

¶ Again, the good of victuals for enduring which is designated by the talent of lead which among all metals is serviceable and poisonous. Just as temporal things are vile regarding spiritual.

¶ Two talents are good of nature and good of grace. One talent is a good of nature which God gave to all, Gen. 1[:31]: “God saw all the things that he had made, and they were very good.” Both in themselves and in the universal order.