Worcester F 80 Distinctiones

51 Days (*Dies*)

There are days past, present, and future. Past days are to be remembered, just as a steward reflects upon what he has taken in, what he has spent, Psal. [76:6]: “I thought upon the days of old.”

¶ In these matters we ought to think upon three things. First, the good examples of our predecessors, so that we may be moved to similar things. Therefore, the deeds of the saints are to be remembered and the honesty of princes, Heb. 10[:32]: “Call to mind the former days, wherein, being illuminated, you endured a great fight of afflictions.”

¶ Second, the evils committed, so that we may repent and be on guard. Just as the merchant once deceived sorrows for his purchase, once endangered abhors the sea, Job 21[:13]: “They spend their days in wealth.”

¶ Third, the benefits we have received, so that we may give thanks. And first, for creation, Deut. 32[:6-7]:

¶ “Is not he your father, who has possessed you? Remember the days of old,” etc. Second, for redemption, Eccle. [7:2]: “The day of death is better than the day of one's birth.” Psal. [117:24]: “This is the day which the Lord has made.” Third, for justification, Psal. [41:9]: “In the daytime the Lord has commanded his mercy.” This day the Lord did not give to the angels. The present days are ordered so that, namely, no one passes through unfruitfully without spiritual food. Just as no one without corporal food, Eccli. 14[:14]: “Defraud not yourself of the good day.” Concerning these days, opportunity is to be considered and the acceptability, Rom. 13[:12]: “The night is passed, and the day is at hand.” Brevity, because the days of man are short, Job 10[:20]: “Shall not the fewness of my days be ended shortly?” Rather, as if they were, Job 7[:16]: “Spare me, Lord, for my days are nothing.”

¶ Third, irrevocability, Job 7[:6]: “My days have passed more swiftly.” They have consumed without hope. Opportunity moves one to working well, John 9[:4]: “I must work the works while it is day.” Brevity moves one to working earnestly. Just as the traveler hastens much, when he has much of the journey to do, and little of the day. And a natural motion is more intense for the day, Job 10[:20]: “Shall not the fewness of my days be ended shortly?” Therefore, the Psal. [38:5]: “O Lord, make me know my end.”

¶ Irrevocability moves one to working continuously, just as before the judgment, a man labors so that the sentence would be given for him, Luke 1[:74-75]: “We may serve him in holiness.” Eccle. the final chapter [12:1]: “Remember

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your Creator in the days of your youth.” Future days are to be foreseen. Just as an ant provides for itself before the days of winter, [Psal. 36:18]: “The Lord knows the days of undefiled.” And Psal. [40:2]: “Blessed is he that understands concerning the needy and the poor.”

¶ These days are triple, and each is to be watched for. For a certain one is of death, as the cleric provides for himself when he must be examined, the substitute when he must be visited, Isai. 10[:3]: “What will you do in the day of visitation?” Prov. 6[:34]: “The jealousy and rage.” Second of the general judgment, Judith the last chapter [16:20]: “In the day of judgment he will visit them.” Joel 2[:11]: “The day of the Lord is great,” etc. Soph. 1[:15]: “That day is a day of wrath.” Mark 13[:19]: “For in those days shall be such tribulations, as were not [from the beginning],” etc. Third, the pains of hell. Such that the lamb is wary of the wolf, Jer. 17[:18]: “Bring upon them the day of affliction.” Job 21[:30]: “The wicked man is reserved to the day of destruction.” Fourth, the day of glory, which is to be desired, just as the critical day for the sick, the day of the feast to the famished, Psal. [83:11]: “For better is one day [in your courts].”

¶ And note that as the day approaches three things should happen. First the household should be aroused from sleep, Rom. 13[:11]: “It is now the hour for us to rise from sleep.” For now the age for working is growing. Second the doorways and the doors are open, that is, the interior senses and the exterior, Apo. 3]:20]: “I stand at the gate, and knock.” Third the servants are counted for the works, Psal. [103:23]: “Man shall go forth to his work,” etc.