Worcester F 80 Distinctiones

80 Grace is to be given (*Gracia data est*)

Grace is to be given for three matters. For living well as for oneself, Act. 10[:45]: “The grace of the Holy Ghost was poured out upon the Gentiles also.” Second, for teaching well as far as one’s neighbor, 1 Pet. 4[:10]: “As every man has received grace, ministering the same one to another: as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” Third, for bringing forth graces as far as God. But alas because today many are empty gifts of gratitude and replete with the spontaneous movements of various desires. But God resists such ones. Wherefore James 4[:6]: “God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble.” For grace is a nourishment in necessity, because just as a body does not live without food, so neither does the soul without grace, 1 Cor. 15[:10]: “By the grace of God, I am what I am.” The instruction of ignorance, for, just as the eye is directed by the light, so the soul by grace, Tit. 2[:11-12]: “For the grace of God our Savior has appeared, instructing us.” The cleansing of evil, just as the rays of the sun cleanses the air of darkness, so grace cleanses the soul, Rom. 3[:24]: “Being justified freely by his grace.” The ornament of indecency, so a fitting habit ornaments the body, Eccli. 32[:3]: “Receive a crown as an ornament of,” etc. A stay for inconstancy, Heb. last chapter [13:9]: “It is best that the heart be established with grace.” A reinforcement of insufficiency, just as the strong helps the weak leaning on himself, so grace helps the tempted, [2] Cor. 12[:9]: “My grace is sufficient for you.” A seasoning of eloquence, just as salt seasons food, so grace seasons the word, Psal. [44:3]:

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“Grace is poured abroad in your lips.” Col. 4[:6]: “Let your speech be always in grace seasoned with salt: that you may know how you ought to answer every man.”

¶ An alleviation of annoyance, so, the morsel comforts the needy, 2 Tim. 2[:1]: “You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace.” The foundation of friendship, Prov. 22[:11]: “For the grace of his lips shall have the king for his friend.”