

Letter 28: 17 May 1519, Wittenberg, Philip Melanchthon to Capito

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[*Summary*]: Encouraged by Oecolampadius, Melanchthon attempts to gain Capito's friendship because they are both striving to revive Christian literature and fighting the same enemy, the 'deceived sophists.' He ranks the people involved in the revival of Christian literature: Erasmus has initiated the movement by casting the dice, Capito and Oecolampadius come next, then Luther and Karlstadt, and finally, Melanchthon modestly states: 'I follow them, but at a long distance.' He is sending Capito some of Luther's writing and plans to send some of his own as well. Luther and Melanchthon approve of Capito's theses [i.e. the leaflet *Sub Volphango Fab. Capitone subscriptas conclusiones ex evangelica scriptura et veteri utriusque linguae theologia mutuatas in Basiliensium Gymnasio disputabit M. Caspar Hedio* (1519)]. Melanchthon writes that he would like to have his *Rhetoric* reprinted in Basel because the first edition (Wittenberg: J. Grunenberg, 1519) was replete with errors. Greetings to Erasmus, Beatus Rhenanus, Caspar Hedio, Johann Froben, Hartmann von Hallwyl. He assures Capito of Luther's and Karlstadt's friendship.