

Letter 122: 21 December 1521, Halle, Capito to Philip Melanchthon

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[*Summary*]: Capito appreciates Melanchthon's discretion. Albert of Brandenburg read Luther's letter (of 1 December 1521) several times and said only that he did not deserve such sharp words, especially since he had forbidden the Franciscans at Halle to speak out against Luther and had stalled the implementation of the Edict of Worms. Capito argues that Albert is not opposed to the spread of the gospel; on the contrary, he is a more zealous preacher than Capito. He believes that Luther will approve of Albert's response, which is almost pleading and was written without prompting. Capito beseeches Melanchthon to act prudently in order not to provoke Albert. He continues to praise Albert's commitment to reform. Capito mentions how he admonished Justus Jonas in a letter to consider those elements of their faith that they hold in common rather than to wage an internecine war. He ends urging Melanchthon to continue speaking out on behalf of the gospel.