

Letter 231: 16 December 1524, Zurich, Ulrich Zwingli to François Lambert and the preachers of Strasbourg

Printed in CorrBucer 1, pp. 298-314, Ep. 84. For Lambert see CWC 1, Ep. 25, note 33.

[*Summary*]: He apologizes for answering their questions only after such a long delay. In his view, the law must not be preached without corresponding emphasis on faith. Preachers who do not preach the gospel or who distort it ought to be dismissed. A nephew might be allowed to marry his uncle's widow, if charity is served and if she is not related to him otherwise. Also, the baptism of children can be justified on the basis of the Bible, since it replaces Old Testament circumcision. Concerning Karlstadt's preaching, Zwingli refers the Strasbourgers to a letter he wrote to Matthäus Alber on the question of the Eucharist. He believes that the word "is" in the phrase "This is my body" means "signifies". He encloses the letter to Alber, but asks them not to publish it. He approves of singing psalms in the German language, but cautions them against saying mass and especially against the adoration of the Eucharist. The council of Zurich has gathered the monks remaining in the monasteries and put them into the House of the Franciscans. The young monks are being apprenticed to learn a trade; the old ones are pensioned off. Leo Jud, Oswald Myconius, Caspar Megander, Heinrich Utinger, and Johannes Aulaeus [Johann Jacob Amman of Zurich?] send their greetings.