

Letter 234: 31 December 1524, [Strasbourg], Capito to Ulrich Zwingli

Printed in ZwBr 2, pp. 279-283, Ep. 356.

[*Summary*]: Capito read Zwingli's letters only cursorily because he was fully engaged in battling the papists. Some conservative canons have fled the city, taking with them the movable goods of their collegiate churches. Bucer has replied to Zwingli's earlier letters. He now agrees with him, whereas before he was more inclined toward Luther. He has no time to read carefully what Zwingli said about the Eucharist because [Andreas] Cratander, the bearer of this letter, is about to leave. He agrees with Zwingli concerning the legitimate marriage of a nephew to his uncle's widow [cf. above, Ep. 231]. He needs time to think about what Zwingli said about infant baptism. [Andreas] Osiander has given some people the impression that the magistrate has no authority to dismiss priests who do not preach the gospel. They wish to preserve the peace and have written respectfully to Luther [above, Ep. 228]. Capito has also written to [Johann] Bugenhagen. Capito wishes he could serve the interest of the duke [Ulrich of Württemberg?], but at present his authority is compromised because of the affair of [Hans Jakob] Schütz, in which he was deceived [cf. above, Epp. 197-202]. The city has many financial obligations. It is obliged to cope with a loan to Franz von Sickingen, which cannot be recovered, and another loan, which has been promised to an [unnamed] city. Nor is Capito certain that the city is sympathetic to the cause. Nicolaus Kniebs has succeeded Daniel Mieg as *Amman*. Martin Herlin and Egenolf Roeder are friendly toward the reformers, and he will consult them. They are wealthy but cautious. Jakob Strauss of Basel incites the people against paying interest on loans. Feast days have been abolished in Strasbourg, but it makes dating [which used feasts as reference points] awkward.