

Letter 243: [18 April 1525], Entzheim, Capito, Bucer, and Zell to Erasmus Gerber

Printed in Pol. Corr. 1, pp. 114-16, Ep. 201 and CorrBucer 2, pp. 17-20, Ep. 94. There is an English translation in T. Scott and B. Scribner, eds. *The German Peasants' War: A History in Documents* (New York and London, 1991), 109-11.

[*Summary*]: The preachers counsel the peasants to accept the advice of Martin Herlin and Bernhard Ottfriedrich to disperse. They point out the problems arising from remaining together: a shortage of food, the danger of strife, as could be seen from the example of the Swabians. The *Landvogt* [Hans Jacob von Mörsburg] and Count Bernhard of Eberstein are willing to promote the gospel and sympathize with the poor. They should listen to the Strasbourg preachers, since the city has shown much goodwill toward them. Herlin and Ottfriedrich are trustworthy and good negotiators and will find a solution. The lords will honour their promise to Strasbourg and allow the peasants to depart without punishment. These are practical reasons; the following is the advice of the Bible: to resist would indicate that they are more concerned with secular than with spiritual matters. They ought not to seek their own advantage by pretending to act for the glory of the gospel. They must trust in God rather than their own numbers. As Christians they ought to seek peace and look to the greater glory of God rather than their own. The preachers assure them of their good will.