

Letter 267: 27 December 1525, Strasbourg, Capito to Ulrich Zwingli

Printed in ZwBr 2, pp. 475-77, Ep. 428.

[*Summary*]: Capito is reassured. He was worried about the fall of Waldshut [occupied by Austrian forces in the wake of the town's involvement in the Peasants' War], for the fate of their neighbours affects them as well. He feared greatly for Balthasar Hubmaier [under whose leadership the people of Waldshut had embraced the Reformation] although he has some reservations about his ambitions. If only Hubmaier would see the error of Anabaptism. He hopes the Lord will restore the Word in Waldshut and end all dissent. So far the Strasbourgers have avoided open dissent. He thanks Zwingli for his exhortations. The city is rife with rumours, and he knows the mutability of the people. The defection of Waldshut has not discouraged them. The [Austrian government] in Ensisheim continues to persecute the pious. Capito has spoken to a pharmacist [about taking an apprentice, cf. below, Ep. 271]. He charges 16 gulden for board. It seems a fair price. Capito asks Zwingli to contact the young man's father. Capito himself will be his guarantor. The pharmacist will not take him for less than two years. Zwingli will see from the enclosed notice the character of the [Dominican], Johannes Burckhard, who has been accused of fraud and theft. Bucer spent much effort on translating Bugenhagen [the translation of the Psalms appeared under Bugenhagen's name in Basel, January 1526; in the preface Bucer took credit for the translation]. Capito wonders what the reaction will be in Wittenberg. He hopes that Zwingli will write without anger, if he decides to write anything. He hopes that Hubmaier, now in captivity in Zurich, will be judged fairly and charitably.