

Letter 272: 15 January 1526, [Strasbourg], Capito to Ulrich Zwingli

Printed in ZwBr 2, pp. 503-4, Ep. 441.

[*Summary*]: Capito has read Zwingli's letter [Ep. 271] with mixed feelings. He is glad that [Balthasar Hubmaier] has been captured, but detests his inconstancy. Capito is unsure of the outcome of the affair and believes that Hubmaier, once he is set free, will glory in his suffering. He takes comfort in the knowledge that the city council of Zurich is guided by the counsel of the Holy Spirit. He asks Zwingli to report on further developments in the city. The Strasbourg city council is stronger in faith than it has ever been before. They have not yet acted on the preachers' proposals for schools, but Capito hopes that modest initiatives will be taken soon. He reports on the progress of the Reformation: To prevent any return to the old masses, they hold a Christian assembly (*conventus*) every fourth month and a daily assembly in each parish. Attendance is high: first the congregation hears the Word; then time is allotted for silent prayer, "so that each person may pray to the Lord according to his own spirit."

Capito has spoken with a highly skilled pharmacist about taking on the young man recommended by Zwingli. He might live with him as an apprentice for two years, at 16 gulden a year. The pharmacist requested a guarantee, and Capito is willing to offer it. [Guillaume] Farel sends his greetings. He strongly opposes the idea of "God in the bread" (*Dei impanati*), the basis of the Catholic doctrine. The German princes have announced that the Imperial Diet at Speyer shall begin on 1 May.<sup>1</sup> In the meantime, Capito hopes for some peace and quiet. There are rumours of war but the Strasbourg magistracy disregards them. Hartmut von Kronberg, living as an exile in Strasbourg, sends his greetings [cf. CWC 1, Ep. 146].

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<sup>1</sup> It actually ran from 25 June-27 August 1526.