

Letter 274: 28 January 1526, [Strasbourg], Capito to Ulrich Zwingli

Printed in ZwBr 2, pp. 510-11, Ep. 444.

[*Summary*]: Luther's *De servo arbitrio* has been published in Strasbourg [by W. Köpfel, 1526]. From what he has read, Capito is impressed by the book's argument and godly character. It is bound to stump Erasmus, who attributes too much power to the human will. Luther has touched on the Eucharist in *De servo arbitrio*. Some church leaders in Swabia oppose his views; some think well of them. Capito fears that the reformers are being drawn into a bitter fight, for which reason they must not dissemble when it comes to their faith. He advises caution and moderation in dealing with the opponents as a means of reaching concord. Capito hopes the disputants may be drawn back to the Christian truth.

[Johann] Bugenhagen's book against Oecolampadius will be for sale at the [Frankfurt] book fair. Capito anticipates that it will either be a herald of peace or a declaration of war, and is prepared for both outcomes. In Strasbourg, the Reformation is proceeding slowly, since the Catholic priests are impeding reform, having gained much hope from the treaty between France and Spain. While writing this letter, Capito received another report that many people are putting their hopes in a general council, which might be initiated at the Diet at Speyer. Capito himself believes that this has little bearing on them, since they rely only on the Word of God.

Capito sends his greetings to Leo Jud, [Oswald] Myconius and the rest of the brethren, and hopes that Zwingli's wife [Anna] and daughter [Regula] are well. Capito has written twice to Zwingli regarding the pharmacist. He has agreed to take in the boy as an apprentice for sixteen gulden a year, for a minimum of two years. Capito asks Zwingli to pass this information on to the provost [see above, Epp. 272, 273]. Capito has offered to be the boy's guarantor.

There are rumours of war, and Strasbourg is taking appropriate measures. They are negotiating with mercenary leaders. Concord prevails among the citizens. Stephan Stör has been imprisoned [cf. above, Ep. 273 and below, Ep. 394]. He is accused of sowing dissent in the Swiss Confederacy. The Strasbourg theologians hope for legal justice. Guillaume Farel, Antonius Peregrinus [pseudonym for Jacques Lefèvre d'Étaples] and the rest of the [French] brethren send their greetings. Bucer and Capito hope that Zwingli will respond to the Wittenberg theologians [regarding the Eucharist].