

Letter 304: 26 September 1526, Strasbourg, Capito to Ulrich Zwingli

Printed in ZwBr 2, pp. 724-5, Ep. 531.

[*Summary*]: [Martin] Bucer is in an awkward situation. He translated [Johann] Bugenhagen's Psalter into German before he declared his position on the Eucharist in a published letter to [Johannes Hess]. Now, Bugenhagen claims that Bucer has twisted his words concerning the Eucharist [i.e. in *Oratio Ioannes Bugenhagii Pomerani, quod ipsius non sit opinio illa de Eucharistia, quae in psalterio sub nomine eius Germanice translato legitur*]. Bucer wants to respond publicly. Capito disapproves. He believes that the protagonists in the dispute should treat each other with civility and allow that Bugenhagen expressed himself well in Latin, while Bucer did his best to explain the text in German to the general reader. At the time of publication, Capito advised Bucer to keep his explanations separate from Bugenhagen's text, but Bucer did not listen to his warnings. Thus the need has arisen for a reply to Bugenhagen's oration [published as *Das Martin Butzer sich in verteütschung des Psalters Johann Pommers getrewlich und Christlich gehalten* (Strasbourg, 1527)].

Hinne Rode has married a Frisian woman. The true interpretation of the Eucharist is generally known there. The Turks have reportedly won a battle [i.e. the battle of Mohacz, 29 August]. Capito has heard that the proceedings of the Disputation of Baden are about to be published with a misleading preface and peroration by [Konrad Huber], the town scribe of Lucerne, but Capito is confident that the truth will eventually come out [cf. also below, Ep. 313]. The Anabaptists are causing some disturbances, but they will be short-lived since there is no more foundation [to the claims of the Anabaptists] than to the "impanated God (*panaceus deus*)" of the Catholics. The Strasbourgers have heard nothing further of Luther. It seems that he is retreating into silence since he has made no progress with threats and insults. Erasmus has written an irate letter to Capito [no longer extant], but Capito will not respond. He has no intentions of irritating an old man, who calls the Wittenberg theologians his brothers and has removed Zwingli and his fellow ministers from his circle of pious men (*album piorum*). Rumour has it that Philip [Melanchthon] genuinely disapproves of Luther's acrimony against Erasmus, a man who has done so much to advance the humanities. Capito only admires a man who can combine erudition with piety.