

Letter 327: 28 February [1527], Strasbourg, Capito to Ulrich Zwingli

Printed in ZwBr 3, pp. 60-2, Ep. 595.

[*Summary*]: The enemies are spreading rumours about the church in Zurich. Capito would like to know whether Felix Manz was punished for treason or heresy and whether he suffered death courageously. The preachers have read [Thomas] Murner's *Kalender* and are treating it with contempt. They have expected nothing better from Murner, but regret that Zurich is entangled in this affair. Revenge is not the answer, but the city magistrates might intercede. Capito predicts that the impudent papists will be brought to shame. The Anabaptists in Strasbourg have not ceased their teaching, but are causing no trouble. One must look out for the future, however. The rumours of an uprising are incorrect: Strasbourg is at peace. Members of the [guild of the] gardeners were denounced and detained, but the accusations turned out to be wrong. Apart from that incident, peace and quiet prevails. Some members of the Strasbourg city council support the reformers. The preachers are confronted with secret plots rather than open attacks. There is a general expectation of war. People wrongly believe that the princes are against them. In Capito's opinion, [Philip of Baden] will eventually come to disagree with Luther over the Lord's Supper. Capito has written a letter to [Eberhard Ruel], the secretary of [Philip of Hesse], who has renounced his friendship on account of Capito's views [of the Eucharist]. Luther is doing everything to incite dissent among them. The Strasbourg preachers enjoy support in Baden. Only [Jakob] Strauss opposes them [see above, Ep. 306] and has recently banned the sale of Capito's *De pueris instituendis* [see below, Ep. 339]. Capito plans to discuss the matter with the chancellor, [Jakob Kirser]. [Martin] Bucer explicitly mentions Luther in his [commentary] on Matthew, a work which Zwingli is likely to approve.