

Letter 344: 7 November 1527, Strasbourg, Capito to Ulrich Zwingli

Printed in ZwBr 3, pp. 299-301, Ep. 666.

[*Summary*]: Zwingli has not written lately, and Capito wonders about the state of affairs in Zurich. He has no doubt that the church in Zurich is stable. The changing climate in Basel only affects the weak; those who rely on God will stand firm [cf. below, Ep. 348]. The Strasbourg reformers preach in favour of abolishing the mass, but have not yet achieved their goal.

Each day more people are joining the Anabaptists and producing new ungodly teachings. Zwingli's *Elenchus* offers effective counterarguments. Capito regrets that good men become involved and are corrupted by the teachings of the Anabaptists. Some of the Anabaptists are tolerable and uphold their teachings less aggressively than others, but they nevertheless persist in their wrong views. Capito uses scripture as a guide to examine the teachings of the Anabaptists.

Zwingli has greatly advanced the cause of the Eucharist in his most recent treatise [*Daß diese Worte "das ist mein Leib"...*]. [Johannes] Brenz, however, persists in his erroneous views. Many people acknowledge that the Strasbourg preachers are friends and supporters of Zwingli. Capito considers that the first step towards unity. Capito's recent report about the drowning of Balthasar [Hubmaier] comes from [Michael Winckler]. On 7 November two evangelical citizens of Vienna were taken to a nearby fortress; nothing is known of their fate. Some Anabaptists have been captured in Vienna as well. Capito is glad that the churches in Strasbourg are moderate and do not condemn anyone rashly. The preachers bear with the weaker brethren.

The plague is raging in Strasbourg. People are leaving the city. A promising student [unidentified] of Capito's recently died of the plague. Three of Capito's servants are currently bedridden. Capito sends his greetings to Conradus Pellicanus, Leo [Jud] and the rest of the brethren, with best wishes for the church in Zurich.