

Letter 520: [Between 10 and 19 October 1533, Strasbourg], Capito and the Strasbourg Preachers to the Augsburg Preachers

Printed in BDS 14:356–62, no. 6.

[*Summary*]: The Strasbourg preachers proffer their opinion of Schwenckfeld and his teachings. They share his Christocentric approach, but not his views on infant baptism and the role of the preachers. He expects divine power and inspiration, but those miracles were appropriate only for the early church, nor does Schwenckfeld himself manifest the full measure of divine inspiration. There is no reason to delay efforts to improve and advance the church of Christ through preaching and administering the sacraments. The Strasbourg preachers are secure in the knowledge that they ‘are producing a much more genuine harvest for Christianity than certain sworn disciples of Schwenckfeld.’ They are sorry to see that Schwenckfeld, otherwise a man of good character, is stubbornly clinging to his divisive beliefs. He should direct his objections at the Lutheran party and battle them rather than the Strasbourg preachers. They wish him well in so far as he is a brother in Christ, but they caution the Augsburg preachers not to allow Schwenckfeld to disturb their community. They refer them to their apologia (see above, Ep. 519) for a more detailed account of their views on Schwenckfeld.