

therefore I left Russia and travelled to V. in order to find a Christian locksmith. After a short stay, I went by the advice of an acquaintance to S.

In the town of B. not far from S. I found a locksmith, a believer, who took me as an apprentice. The Lord also gave me, in his grace, the needful strength and ability during my apprenticeship.

At B. I was baptized. I believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, and through faith in Him I had become a child and heir of God. In Russia I had not had the desired opportunity for baptism, as Mr. R. according to Russian law, did not dare to baptize.

I sent word to my dear mother of what had taken place. I considered this necessary, although I knew it would be very distasteful to her. From K. I had written several times before my departure to Germany, and asked her if I might visit and take leave of her. She answered me with bitter words, refused my visit, and conjured me not to be baptized in Germany, as she must curse me. At the same time she expressed the hope that God would, on account of the piety of my parents and ancestors, preserve me from being baptized. My mother had always similarly replied to the letters I had written to her from Germany prior to my baptism.

After informing her of my baptism, with a happy but anxious heart, I received the severest letter which she had yet written. When her reply came I was in the workshop, at the vice, and I reeled against the wall stunned, as I read it. I was taken

to my room, where I lay prostrate for three days. My mother wrote, "I have received the news of thy death, I have torn my clothes, put ashes on my head, and my time of mourning has begun." Upon this she quoted all the curses of God which are recorded (Lev. xxvi. and Deut. xxviii.), and closed with the words, "Also every sickness, and every plague, which is not written in the book of this law, them will the Lord bring upon thee, until thou be destroyed" (Deut. xxviii. 91).

My sorrow was succeeded by many disappointments experienced among Christians in Germany. In Russia, as I have said, I had not expected better things. But I had cherished other hopes when thinking of Germany, and now had to learn, what I already knew from the words of the Lord, that not all who say "Lord, Lord" are truly His people.

I underwent still deeper experiences, while still working as a locksmith's assistant in Baden, and later elsewhere. I found amongst these Christians a striving and struggling after holiness in the flesh. The gloriously high position, which the believer in Christ occupies, and which God had showed me in His Word, in my loneliness in Russia, especially in Paul's epistles, became obscured and darkened to me through their teachings. I began to wish to make myself, *i. e.*, my old corrupt nature, the flesh, which according to God's Word cannot be improved, and which God therefore in Christ's death on the cross "crucified" with Him (Gal. ii. 20, v. 24), *i. e.*, had condemned to death and judicially