

Romans 8:19 - 25 "In The Meantime"

As sons of God we are heirs which means we look forward to our full inheritance in the future... the time beyond this world when we are glorified with Christ.

19 For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was

The "Revelation of the sons of God" is the 2nd coming. Rev. 19: Our appearance with Christ will bring the kingdom of God

In the meantime we wait and groan - our example is "Mother Nature" (v. 22)

(subjected to futility, ^{vain + death defeat}) not willingly, but because of Him who

subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the

Why does the creation long for the return? Because it has been cursed since Eden.

our salvation shall be the creation's salvation.

glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole

But "in hope" of future glory..

Until that time the creation suffers the pains of childbirth.

creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together

until now. 23 And not only this, but also we ourselves, having

Creation groans just like we do.

"first fruits" anticipate a certain greater harvest - so with us the Holy Spirit assures us of a final day

the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within

ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the

redemption of our body. 24 For in hope we have been saved,

our final step of adoption is when our body shall be raised

Our salvation is finally completed but not fully enjoyed until we are with Christ in heaven.

but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he

already sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, with

perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

Life Group Application Questions

1. What were the similarities between us and "mother nature", the creation?
2. What does "the first fruits of the Spirit" mean?
3. In what ways do we "groan"?
4. Why does the creation "groan the pains of childbirth"?