

not to rule us, but by God's enabling grace we are to control it and to put its expressions progressively to death.

The third phase of our new relationship to innate sin is that:

3. We have God's guarantee that we will one day be made completely dead to the power and very presence of innate sin.

Let us note the passage in 8:19-25.

Rom 8:19 For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.

Rom 8:20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope

Rom 8:21 that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

Rom 8:22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.

Rom 8:23 And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

Rom 8:24 For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one also hope for what he sees?

Rom 8:25 But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

Although this passage does not directly mention deliverance from the remaining power and presence of innate sin, but rather of glorification, with particular reference to the transformation of our physical bodies, it necessarily implies this deliverance.

Just as we have been cursed with moral and physical corruption, so the creation has been cursed with the corruption of the physical results of sin; and just as we long to be totally delivered from moral and physical corruption, so the creation groans to be totally delivered from physical corruption. When the benefits of Christ's redemption are finally and fully applied to us and we are delivered from the bondage of the remaining power and presence of sin and from the curse of physical corruption and death to the glorious freedom of the sons of God, then the creation itself will also be delivered from its bondage to physical corruption. In the meanwhile we await with eager expectation this final application of Christ's redemption, the final deliverance from sin and its results.