

The glory of the resurrection state is looked for by the Christian's frail body.

Verse 19.—“For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.”

The creature, in earnest expectation, waiteth for the manifestation of the *glory* of the sons of God, as the previous verse shows. And we believe the glory here referred to, is the glory of the resurrection body of the children of God,—the glory that will follow “the redemption of the body.” (Verse 23.)

The word rendered creature, may mean any created thing. The inspired writers, however, sometimes apply it to human, as distinct from other animate beings. It occurs in Mark 16, 15: “Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature,” i. e., to every human being. By a farther limitation, it seems to be here applied to a human body as distinct from the soul,—to the body as it now is, exhibiting the old creation, in distinction from the glorified state of the body, which will exhibit the new creation. This meaning of the word can be uniformly adopted in the different instances in which it occurs in this connexion. It is the same Greek word that is rendered creature, in the 19th, 20th and 21st verses, and creation, in the 22nd verse. It is more natural to suppose that the Apostle intends to attach the same meaning to the same word in each successive verse, than that he uses the same word to express different meanings in closely connected sentences. And that this one meaning is that which we have assigned it, is, we think, made evident by the next, or 23rd verse, where the Apostle employs the explanatory phrase, to wit, the redemption of the body.

Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God. Hence, a renewal of the body is necessary, even in the case of those who have been already renewed in spirit. To these, the redemption of the body is still a felt want,—an object of earnest desire. Especially so, as, at the time of redemption, the bodies of “the sons of God” will manifest a difference, from even the resurrection bodies of the wicked. It is the Holy Spirit that will renew the bodies of the saints. In every case, in which the Divine Spirit had renewed the soul after the

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