

## FUTURE THINGS (ESCHATOLOGY)

### I. The States of Persons After Death

#### A. The Nature of Death

William Cohen Bryant (1794-1878) in his poem *Thanatopsis* wrote:

So live, that when thy summons come to join  
To the innumerable caravan, which moves  
To that mysterious realm, where each shall take  
His chamber in the silent halls of death,  
Thou go not, like the quarry-slave at night,  
Scourged to his dungeon, but, sustained and soothed  
By an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave  
Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch  
About him, and lies down to pleasant dream.

What is death? What is it like? What does it mean to die? What do we know about death?

#### 1. Scriptural data

Genesis 2:16-17 -- "And the Lord God commanded the man, saying 'From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die.' "

Genesis 3:17-19 -- "Then to Adam He said, 'Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, "You shall not eat from it"; cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, because from it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.' "

Romans 5:12 -- "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned --"

I Corinthians 15:21-22 -- "For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive."

Matthew 10:28 -- "And do not fear those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

Luke 23:43, 46, 52-53 -- "And he was saying, 'Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom!'. . . And Jesus, crying out with a loud