

### **“I Know!”**

A young woman's father passed away. He had been very dear to her, both as a loving father and as strong and wonderful guide as a Christian. A few days after the funeral, a co-worker kindly offered condolences by saying: "I'm sorry you lost your father." Her reply? "Oh, I haven't lost him; I know precisely where he is."

To some this may seem rather flippant. But, confidence is appropriate for faithful believers and followers of Jesus Christ. We have the assurance from God's Word that when we die we will be with our Lord. *"In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know"* (John 14:2-4).

John told us his letter was written so we can have this confidence. *"These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God"* (1John 5:13).

The church at Smyrna was challenged by Jesus to be faithful unto death. Their spiritual commitment had not gone unnoticed by the Master, and He encouraged them to confidently maintain their commitment. *"I know your works, tribulation, and poverty... Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. ... You may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life"* (Rev. 2:9-10).

David wrote this Psalm for Jeduthun the musician to sing with the congregation of Israel: *"My soul, wait silently for God alone, For my expectation is from Him. He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be moved. In God is my salvation and my glory; The rock of my strength, And my refuge, is in God"* (Psalm 62:5-7).

"Yes, but Paul, isn't it sinful pride to speak confidently of going to heaven?!" Only if you think the apostle Paul was guilty of sinful pride. *"We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord"* (2Cor. 5:8).

Do you believe, or do you KNOW? **John 10:27-29**