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The City Temple Times

“Be still, and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10). God’s people are commanded to “be still” in this verse. The imperative gives a solemn duty to those in a covenant relationship with God — Israel in the Old Testament, but today, it is given to Christians (cf. Galatians 3:26-29).

What does it mean when God’s own are commanded to “be still”? The injunction is not given to restrict the mobility of God’s people. The duty represents a spiritual disposition that ought to characterize those to whom God’s unfailing promises have been given.

The word translated “be still” comes from the Hebrew term *raphah*. This word is found in various forms in the Old Testament, with different shades of meaning. It refers to that which is slack, or to let drop, or in some instances, to be disheartened or weak. When used of a person (as opposed to some inanimate object) it often has a negative connotation.

Interestingly, “be weak” is here commanded. In other contexts, those who let their hands “drop” from work are condemned. Those who are disheartened are commanded to take courage. In contexts where “being still” is condemned, we find that certain obligations were being neglected, and God’s people were admonished to take initiative to fulfill their duties.

Sadly, there are those who are far from

“still”; they “do all the work” and give God none of the credit. They believe that by “lifting up their hands” and by “taking courage,” they can survive and thrive by the sweat of their own brow. They can do

flect on what God can do in the face of what we are unable to do.

Spiritual serenity, the psalmist admits, ought to be cultivated in spite of the shaking mountains and agitated waters (vv. 2-

3; i.e., figures for the difficulties we face in life). This spiritual calm, that God commands, does not come from a lack of troubles; it derives from a steady, deep reflection on the ways God has in-

tervened in history on behalf of his people (cf. Romans 15:4).

So as your world crumbles around you, the call from Scripture is: don’t flinch in faith in God. Stand still — not because of a self-made confidence, not because you are the most composed person in the face of disaster, not because “you’ve seen it all.” Be still because of what you know about God.

It is “God’s past” that provides calm for “our future.” Know that he is God! Know it, not merely intellectually, but practically, spiritually, and emotionally. He is your God. He is the ruler of kingdoms of this earth and the all-powerful Creator of the Universe.

If you are the last man or woman standing, be still. “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth do change” (Psalm 46:1-2a). Hallelujah!

Be Still

and Know...

by: Jason Jackson

it all on their own, without any divine de-

pendence.

Here is the irony in this term “be still.” While we must take the initiative to fulfill our responsibilities and live our lives, the uncertainties of living in a world of sin and woe will continually challenge us. Personal initiative is no substitute for reliance upon God (cf. James 4:13-17).

This command — “be still” — forces us to think on two things: that we are finite, and that God is infinite. That being the case, we need to drop our hands, go limp, relax, and “chill out.” Christian people ought to “come, behold the works of Jehovah,” (v. 8) that we may enjoy a calm confidence in him who gave us his Son.

“Shall he not also with him freely give us all things?” Paul reasoned (Romans 8:32). Psalm 46:10 encourages us to re-

ministries in motion

upcoming events

MOVEMENT MINISTRIES

The Movement Ministries will be kicking off the 2012-2013 season with the Wisdom Ministry who will be ministering on Sunday, Sept. 23, 2012, during the 9 a.m. worship service. We are in anticipation of what God will do as we prepare to minister during the initial sermon service of Movement Minister Lori Ford on Sunday, Oct. 14, 2012 at 4 p.m. The ministry will close out the month of October with ministering at the annual anniversary concert on Sunday, Oct. 28, 2012. We look forward to getting back into the sanctuary so that we may “present our bodies as living sacrifices, holy, acceptable unto God, which is our reasonable service” (Roman 12:1). Please continue to lift our ministry in prayer as we continue to do service unto the Lord!

TRUSTEES

The Trustee Ministry is sponsoring a Bull Roast on Sept. 30, 2012 from 4 p.m.- 8 p.m. at the LaFontaine Bleu, 7514 Ritchie Hwy in Glen Burnie! If you are in the need of a break from the norm, love to eat, fellowship with loving people, and dance to some uplifting music, then this is the event for you! Tickets are on sale through Sept. 16, 2012, so see Sis. Delores Allen or any trustee for your tickets right away! There will be a 50/50 raffle, door prizes, great music, fabulous food, and lots of fun!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Christian Education will be sponsoring the Churchwide Institute on Saturday, Nov. 10, 2012.

ANNIVERSARY MONTH APPROACHES...

The month of November will mark the 42nd Anniversary of City Temple! We will kick off the month in our usual grand style, with the anniversary concert on Oct. 28, 2012 at 6 p.m., followed by Pastor’s Appreciation on Sunday, Nov. 4, 2012 at 4 p.m. Come out on the 4th to show your pastor how much you love and support him and his ministry! The anniversary month continues on Nov. 11, 2012, as we take time to honor our seniors, and Nov. 18, 2012 as we applaud our Outreach Ministry for their outstanding work! We culminate the anniversary month on Sunday, Nov. 25, 2012 as we take the time to welcome guests and long time friends during our Family and Friends Day.

*Stay always close
So, we, who love you
may see your scattered
dreams and gather them into
your destiny.*

*Float your hopes,
beside our adoring streams
of love
and for this moment in time we
shall make your dreams our
dreams.*

Let us be your dreammakers.

*Together, we’ll raise our arms
in the sweetest of praise and
love to our precious Lord above
offering the sincerest adora-*

*tion for He, and all His earthly
creation,*

*Close your pretty brown eyes
and hand in hand, side by side
we shall find that dream so
sweet
so full of hope—sincere--
complete
A Dream
robust in hope for a bountiful
life.*

*And with prayer, we’ll free our-
selves*

*From all worry and strife
placing it all in*

The Master’s loving hands.

**SWEET
CHILD OF
GOD**

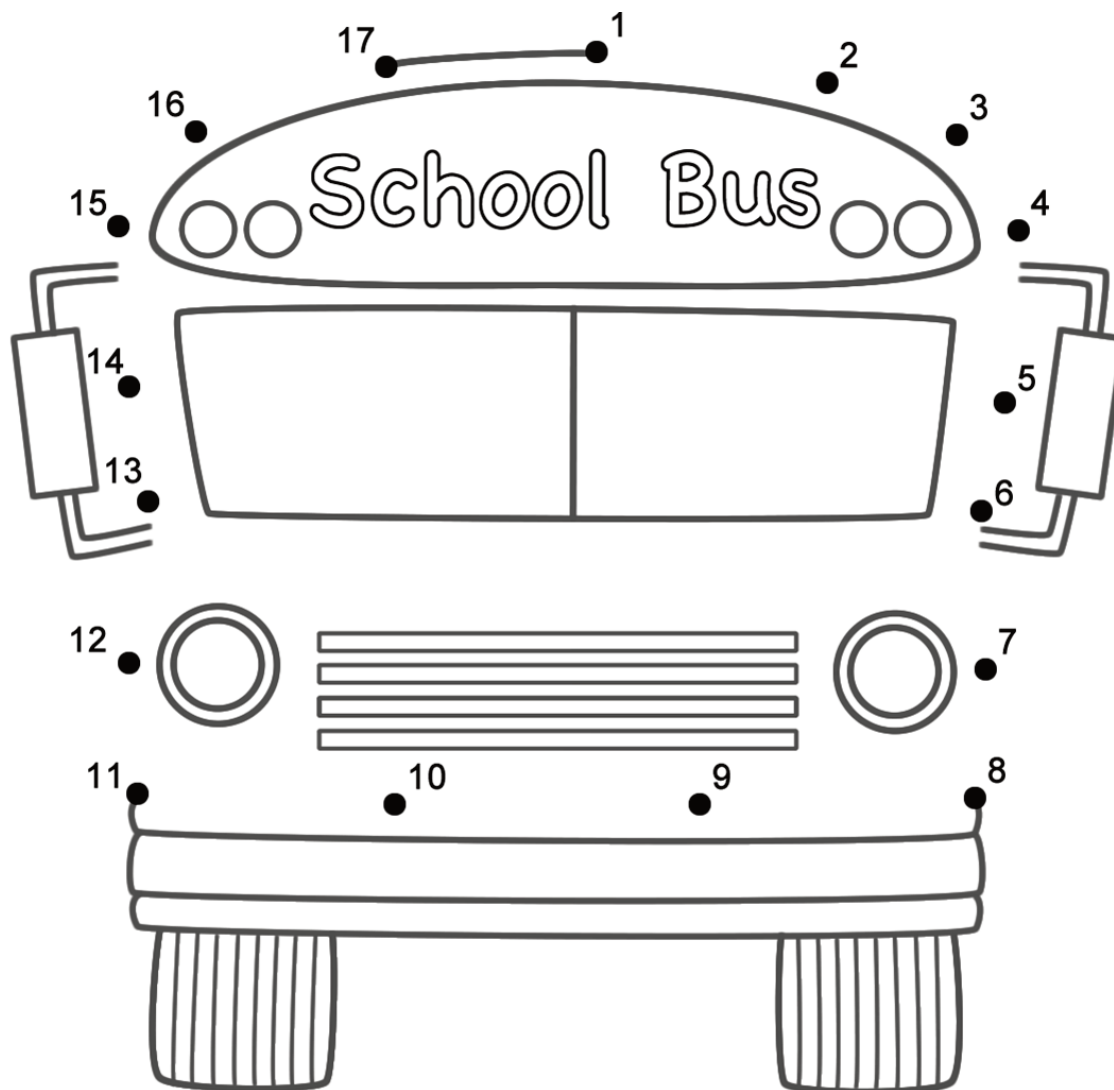


*Lovingly written and submitted by,
Mrs. Bernadette Lewis*

kid's fun page

games, puzzles & trivia

BACK-TO-SCHOOL CONNECT THE DOTS!



Lisa doesn't know what supplies she needs for school. Unscramble the words below to help her find out what school supplies are needed!



1. nbkooteo _____

6. sepn _____

2. rdviedis _____

7. dorefl _____

3. prepa _____

8. ocanytrdii _____

4. rrsae _____

9. rlru _____

5. ilnpce _____

10. auaccrlot _____



for these
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BIRTHDAYS

OCTOBER

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CONSTANCE STITH

SEPTEMBER

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CHRISTINE JAMES MOORE
ELAINE RATHER
LANETTE DAVIS
OTIS THORNTON
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PUBLICATION DEADLINES

The deadline to submit any articles, pictures or other content for publication in our December 2012 issue is **Sunday, November 18, 2012.**

THE TIMES ON-LINE OR BY E-MAIL

See the latest and past issues of The Times in color at <http://www.thecitytemple.org/times>. The Times can also be e-mailed to you. Send an e-mail to times@thecitytemple.org to join our e-mail list!

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