

11 May 2014

Be Still a while and know the Lord (Pt 2 Be still a while)

This is our second topical study on *being still a while*. In our previous study we covered three points:- (1) when troubles come be still a while and rest, and (2) when you want to know the will of the Lord stand still a while, and (3) when receiving instruction from the word of God, stand still a while. In this study we will cover four points that include; (1) be still a while and know that the Lord is God, and (2) stand still a while in the battle and watch the Lord defeat your enemies, and (3) stand still a while and consider the wondrous works of God, and (4) be still, stand in awe, and sin not.

Let us add a little detail to our four points:-

1. Be still a while and know that the Lord is God.

Ps.46: 10 *Be still, and know that I [am] God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.*

Our verse does not use the name of the Lord but within the context of Ps.46 it is apparent that the "I" in verse 10 does refer to the Lord of verse 7 and 11. As a matter of interest there are many other verses that state that the Lord (the "I" of verse 10) is God (see Ex.15: 2, Deut.4: 35, 39, 7: 9 & Josh.2: 11), as David reiterates in Ps.100: 3. Therefore, where our verse says, "Be still, and know that I am God" it is reasonable to suggest David is saying, be still and know that the Lord is God, or the Lord of hosts is God. And the Lord, who is God, will be exalted among the heathen and in the earth.

How does the Jehovah's Witness (JW) deal with the Lord being God when Jesus is recorded as "the Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 11: 17)? The same way every so-called Christian belief that is not in Holy Scripture is established, by changing what God said, just as the devil deceived Eve, so Satan has deceived many today, by changing the word *Lord* in the Old Testament to the word *Jehovah*. So how does a JW obey this piece of Scripture and stand still a while and know that the Lord (who according to Acts 10: 36 is Jesus Christ) is God? They change other verses in Scripture like 1Jn5: 7, 8 to remove the link between Father, Son and Spirit and these three being One, then in Jn.1: 1 they change it to read "the word is a god...and the word became flesh", such that the word, who is clearly the Lord Jesus Christ, is shown in their copy of the Scriptures to be 'a god' and not God Almighty of Ps.46: 10.

When you change the words of Scripture, YOU became the authority on what to believe and what is right and wrong. Whereas a Christian reads the Scriptures, the Authorised Bible, and sees that he is to be still a while before the Lord who is God. And Jesus Christ who is also known as the Lord Jesus Christ, He is God, He is a member of the Triune Godhead (1Jn.5: 7, 8 cp. Col.2: 22), and He will be exalted among the heathen and in the earth. And His name is not Allah or Buddha, but rather the Lord Jesus Christ, the name above all names (Eph.1: 20, 21)!

That is not to say when we are on a train, bus, plane, or in our car, that we cannot sit still a while, and know that the Lord Jesus Christ, He is God, He is exalted among the heathen, and He is exalted.

That is not to say that when we are on a boat, or a yacht, push-bike, or skate-board, or on a tread-mill, that we cannot be still a while, and know that the Lord Jesus Christ He is God; He is exalted in the earth. But rather, when we stop a while in a quiet place as the Lord Jesus did, when we kneel down as the apostles did (Acts 21: 5), we show with our body that we desire to know in our heart, mind and soul that the Lord Jesus Christ, He *is* God, He *is* exalted among the heathen; He *is* exalted in the earth.

For those who walk around with ear phones on listening to rock music or, spend their time in front of the TV, or do not have any quiet time, then they will struggle to reflect on this truth, they will struggle to reflect on this verse in Scripture that encourages us to be still a while and know that the Lord Jesus Christ *is* God, He *is* exalted among the heathen, and He *is* exalted in the earth.

2. Stand still a while in the battle and watch the Lord defeat your enemies.

Ex.14: 13 *And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day; ye shall see them again no more forever.*

See also 2Chr.20: 17.

Two important doctrines come from this verse i) we are in a battle & ii) watch the Lord fight your enemies. The Israelites were slaves to the Egyptians and when God smote them at the Red Sea they were Israel's enemies, and so we make the point from our verse; stand still a while in battle and watch the Lord defeat your enemies. He did the same

when they came into the land where one man of Israel would fight one thousand men of their enemy (Josh.23: 10), and when they were in the land (1Chr.20: 17 & 2Chr.32: 8). And it might have been a physical battle, nevertheless, David still recognised, even though he went and killed the Philistines, that God was the one who fought the battle (Ps.35: 1), just as he did as a young lad when he took on Goliath (1Sam.17: 46).

Believers today do not cut the head off their enemy, and God Almighty does not go around smiting all the heathen so that Israel can get their land back where the Arabs reside, but today we are in a spiritual war (Eph.6: 12) against an enemy that is unseen and hates us and he has his ministers and his angels that seek to destroy, deceive, delay, and discourage, and our weapons of this warfare are spiritual (2Cor.2: 4 & 5). It is this verse in 2Cor.2: 4 that points to God being the source of our weapons in this warfare, hence supporting our point that God fights our battles. How do we communicate to our commander and chief, the Lord Jesus Christ? In prayer and through His word. And the best place to be praying and reading His word is when we are still, when we are quiet, hence supporting our point as being applicable today that we stand still a while in the battle and watch the Lord defeat our enemies.

I am sure that for us men-folk it is harder than for the women-folk to wait on the Lord to fight our battles, and so we have a tendency to try to help, rather than standing a while and watching the Lord fight our battles. For example, when a friend, or family member is being attacked and the Lord is teaching them a life lesson, how often do we butt in rather than seeking the Lord's guidance on whether to help them or not? And there is nothing wrong with that, but just as David would ask the Lord if he were to go up and fight against the Philistines, knowing that if the Lord did not want him to and he went up, then he would be by himself and his army of men, regardless of how big or small, they would get beaten. So it is today, let us encourage each other to seek the will of the Lord, to use the weapons of our warfare, being prayer and scripture, to discern the Lord's will for us in each stage of the daily battle, whether we should go up or stay, and as we seek him, may we sit a while, and acknowledge that the battle is not ours but the Lord's (2Chr.20: 15).

3. Stand still a while and consider the wondrous works of God

Job 37: 14 Harken unto this, O Job: stand still, and consider the wondrous works of God.

When you think of considering the wondrous works of God, when you consider standing still a while to think upon the awesome works of the Lord, what do you think about? Let us consider the word *wondrous* in the Scriptures for guidance on what God wants us to think about. Out of seventeen verses where the word *wondrous* occurs, twelve times they apply to the Lord's works, and nine of those verses are in the book of Psalms. There are numerous ways the Scriptures speak of the Lord's wondrous works which help us to understand them:-

- i) some verses simply talk of His wondrous works (1Chr.16: 9, Ps.26: 7, 105: 2, 119: 27, 145: 5), and
- ii) in another Job asks his comforters if they know the wondrous works of the Lord (Job 37:16), and
- iii) others declare His wondrous works (Ps.71: 17), and
- iv) David also says His wondrous works declare His name (Ps.75: 1), and
- v) David also identifies that those who do not believe God's wondrous works have sinned (Ps.78: 32), and
- vi) David asserts that it is only God who does wondrous works (Ps.72: 18 & 86: 10).

Now stand still a while and see how these six points add to the depth of your understanding of wondrous works. But, as we have said with previous points in this series, it does not mean that we cannot consider these wondrous works of God even as if sit of train ride on the TransAlpine Express from Christchurch to Greymouth, considered to be one of the top ten scenic train rides in the world. But could you consider the depth of His wondrous works if you were jogging, push-biking, or driving your car? Yes, but you may not get to the depths you would if you sat still a while, or stood still a while, perhaps with the Scriptures in one hand, considering the significance of His wondrous works.

Next time you are in the forest at night, or out at sea at night, stand a while and look at the stars, the beauty and depth of God's creation. And if you cannot get to such majestic areas where the stars are out in force then get a screen saver of the universe and sit a while, and consider the wondrous works of the Lord! For they are majestic, they are awesome, they speak of His precious, worthy, and Holy name, and let us remember, in a world that gives science more credibility each day, let us make known that according to the Scriptures of truth the heavens and the earth *were* created by God, and only Him, they speak of *His* name. And when we sit a while and consider His wondrous works, we cannot help but think of His creation...the very heavens and earth that man like Professor Richard Dawkins attribute to coming from "nothing". So be encouraged to stand still a while and consider the wondrous works of God.

4. Be still, stand in awe, and sin not.

Ps.4: 4 *Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah.*

In verse 3 David says “But know that the Lord hath set apart him that is godly for himself...” Then our verse says “stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still.” So our verse fits our topic of being still a while before the Lord, and in the context of the Psalm, David is talking about those who are godly, those who are believers, and then in our verse he says “stand in awe, and sin not...and be still.” Now for David, as with any believer today, the only thing worthy of standing in awe of, is His word (see Ps.119: 161), and the only person worthy of standing in awe of, is the Lord (see Ps.33: 8). And it is not surprising that David stood in awe of both the word and the Lord, because in Ps.138: 2 David recognises that God magnifies His word above all His name. And when *we* stand still a while in awe of the Lord or His word, we are to sin not, for when we do so we give Him the glory that is due His name and we thank Him (Rom.1: 21). Wouldn't it be good to spend our lives being still and standing in awe of God, and His creation, and all that He has done for us in His Son the Lord Jesus Christ!

Let us remember what the word *awe* means, according to the Oxford dictionary - “reverential fear or wonder, as stand in”; hence, while we stand in awe of God we are standing in reverential fear of the Lord and according to Prov.16: 6 it is by the fear of the Lord men depart from evil (see also Prov.3: 7). Hence, when we stand in awe, when we stand still and acknowledge our fear of the Lord, we are in the place to depart from evil and sin not. To expect a man to depart from evil, to sin not for no reason, without fearing the Lord is like saying that he has power over his own flesh, and he does *not*, which is why the flesh wars with the spirit (Gal.5: 21).

Perhaps now we can understand why so much of the church today who either do not know of the doctrine of fearing the Lord as being the beginning of wisdom, or do not acknowledge the need to fear the Lord today, have little desire to depart from evil. Like Sodomite ministers of God or preachers who choose to change the words of Holy Scripture. Perhaps if they took a minute each day, perhaps if we all took a minute each day to stand still before our God in awe, in reverential fear of Him, we would sin less, by simply desiring more to depart from evil.

In this our second topical study on *being still a while*, we have covered four points; (1) be still a while and know that the Lord is God, and (2) stand still a while in the battle and watch the Lord defeat your enemies, and (3) stand still a while and consider the wondrous works of God, and (4) be still, stand in awe, and sin not.