

October 16th – God Blesses Trust and Hope

“Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord and whose hope is the Lord. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes. But its leaf will be green and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit” (Jeremiah 17:7-8).

Did you know that "In God We Trust" is the official motto of the United States? It was adopted in 1956 as an alternative or replacement to the unofficial motto of *E pluribus unum*, which was adopted when the Great Seal of the United States was created and adopted in 1782. "In God We Trust" first appeared on U.S. coins in 1864. A law passed in a Joint Resolution by the 84th Congress declared IN GOD WE TRUST must appear on all currency. This phrase was first used on paper money in 1957 when it appeared on the one-dollar silver certificate. The first paper currency bearing the phrase entered circulation on October 1, 1957.

Some have argued that the motto should be removed from our currency, saying that it is an establishment of religion and thus it violates the 1st amendment. Nothing could be further from the truth. Not only is it perfectly legal for our lawmakers to add the motto to whatever they wish, but it would be wise to place even more trust and hope in God.

We're all going to go through adversity, but today's verses remind us that God will always sustain those who have placed their trust in Him – even though the worst droughts and storms of our lives. Like a tree that flourishes in the midst of severe famine, so God will cause His children to prosper in the midst of this dark and dry world. Of course, that doesn't mean we'll never experience any poverty, but it does mean that God will sustain us through it all. So then, "taste and see that the Lord is good, blessed is the man who trusts in Him" (Psalm 34:8).