

## What's Your Positivity Rate?

**G**od is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea: Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof" (Psalm 46:1-3).

Though a year ago the coronavirus was spreading like wildfire around the world, though hospitals were overwhelmed with patients, though quarantines prevented us from seeing family and took away employment, though food lines and testing facilities filled parking lots.

Then, God says, "Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10). Don't worry. He is in control.

In Psalm 44 we read how the people knew about God because their fathers had repeatedly instructed them in God's works in times of old. Even when it seemed as if God had abandoned them, they hung onto their firm foundation of trust in Him "Through thee will we push down our enemies: through thy name will we tread them under that rise up against us" (Psalm 44:5). Their positivity rate rose to the heavens!

During the coronavirus pandemic, much ado was made about the positivity rate. While the word "positive" normally means a good thing, a hopeful thing, an upbeat attitude, the coronavirus positivity rate (the number of people tested who actually had Covid) was something to be feared. Let's test our own positivity rate—how positive are we of God's faithful care for us? Endeavor to share His greatness and power to generations to come so they, too, can be still and know that He is God during dire circumstances.

"And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee" (Psalm 9:10).

*Lucinda J. Rollings*

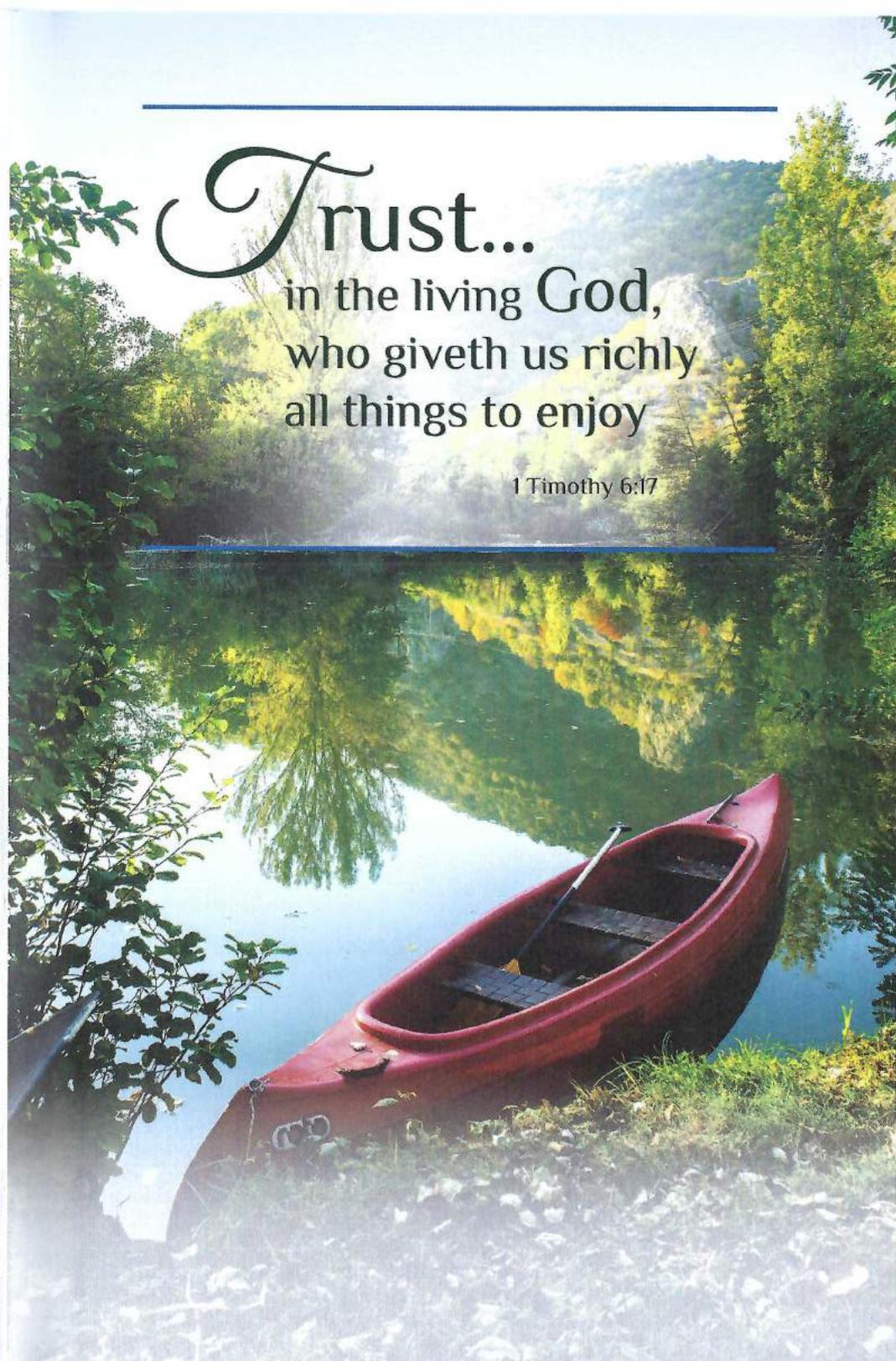
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Trust...  
in the living God,  
who giveth us richly  
all things to enjoy

1 Timothy 6:17

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Canoe in a mountain creek ©Krie, courtesy iStock · Printed in USA



# Covenant Church

3115 N.W. 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue Gainesville FL 32605

September 26, 2021

## Call to Worship

## Invocation

*Pastor Don Mauldin*

## Sing Unto the Lord

Hymn # #410 Standing on the Promises

## Welcome and Announcements

## Recognition of Guests

## Mission Moment

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

## Worship in Song

Hymn # 552 I Am Thine O' Lord

## Offertory Prayer

## Offertory

*Rose Morgan*

## Special Music

## Sermon: "It's Not Easy"

*Pastor Don Mauldin*

Scripture II Thessalonians 3:6-16

## Hymn of Benediction

*Don't forget to Shine, Shine, Shine!*

## Covenant News

Edwina is now recovering at home!

Woo Hoo!

## Scripture for Today

## II Thessalonians 3:6-16

<sup>6</sup>In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers and sisters, to keep away from every believer who is idle and disruptive and does not live according to the teaching<sup>[a]</sup> you received from us. <sup>7</sup>For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, <sup>8</sup>nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. <sup>9</sup>We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate. <sup>10</sup>For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat."

<sup>11</sup>We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies. <sup>12</sup>Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat. <sup>13</sup>And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good.

<sup>14</sup>Take special note of anyone who does not obey our instruction in this letter. Do not associate with them, in order that they may feel ashamed. <sup>15</sup>Yet do not regard them as an enemy, but warn them as you would a fellow believer.

Final Greetings

<sup>16</sup>Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you.