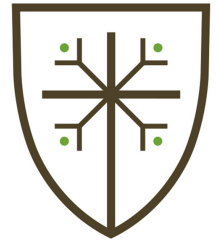


# SERMON NOTES



October 23, 2022

SERMONS ON FIRST JOHN

## Reasons to Stay

All Saints Presbyterian Church

### SERMON INFO

#### TITLE

Reasons to Stay: Confidence in  
Knowing God

#### PREACHER

Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt

#### TEXTS

Jeremiah 2:1-3, 5, 11-13  
1 John 5:13-21  
John 4:7-10, 13-18, 25-26, 28-29

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some things that you have (or have had) confidence in other than God?
2. How can we, as Christians, encourage one another to stay near to Jesus and to stay in the Church as John does in his letter?

### SERMON IN SUMMARY

Tim wrapped up our sermon series on 1 John this week. The title of this series is Reasons to Stay – and we saw the final reason in the last chapter of first John. We have confidence in God and in the Gospel. First, Tim looked at our sources of confidence. There is a distinction between believing in something and knowing. We can believe something without confidence in it. But John says that he “writes these things that you may know.” It is from this confidence that we bring other Christians to God in prayer. John speaks of “sin that does not lead to death.” Through our prayers the Lord will deliver other Christians from the power of sin and death. We need only ask.

We have evidence that the Gospel is true and the work of the Holy Spirit is real because of (Tim’s second point) the reality of the change in a Christian’s life. Life change leads to spiritual confidence – a confidence that comes from knowing God. The life of a Christian looks different, just as Jesus’ life looked different. In our Gospel reading this week we saw the Samaritan woman – a person who was different in every way from the culture around her – being seen and loved by Jesus. The reality of the change is apparent when you begin to love others in ways you never have before. The commandments of God are no longer burdensome, but beautiful.

Finally, John ends his letter with an exhortation to “keep yourself from idols.” Idols are anything so central to your heart that it controls your heart. But when that thing fails, as it will, when you lose your ultimate thing, the confidence you have in it will be replaced with sorrow and, eventually, despair. We have so many reasons for hope, even looking at our own church body. The broken being cared for, the barriers of generations being crossed, adults coming to faith and being baptized. So, as Tim said to us at the end of this final sermon on 1 John, “don’t just keep yourself from idols, but give yourself to the true God.”