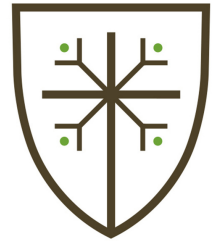


SERMON NOTES



October 16, 2022

SERMONS ON FIRST JOHN

Reasons to Stay

All Saints Presbyterian Church

SERMON INFO

TITLE

Reasons to Stay: The Source of
Life

PREACHER

Rev. Josh Keller

TEXTS

Exodus 17:1-7
1 John 5:6-13
John 6:60-63, 66-69

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Contemplate the individual portions of the Apostles' Creed. Do you believe what you say? Discuss sections of the creeds that make you uneasy or doubtful and compare with Scripture.
2. Do you see areas of the church that seem to lack a fundamental dependence on Jesus? What can we do to address them and help our brothers and sisters in faith?

SERMON IN SUMMARY

Things that seem to be alive may merely function mechanically – Halloween decorations, scary illusions, ghosts that pop out of doors, and Christians who have never known Jesus as the source of life. John 6:66 tells why some no longer identify with Jesus. They desert (I) a particular person, (II) a fundamental dependence, and (III) a vital question.

A Particular Person: I John 5:11

Early “deconstructors” of the faith believed they could pick and choose parts of the gospel and still be Christians. They didn’t need a savior who was God incarnate because they had no sin to demand his physical life. They liked the idea of Jesus generally but denied a fundamental dependence on Jesus. John, however, makes it clear that all good things in Christ come inevitably with the price tag of atonement and death. Tom Holland in *Dominion* argues that the good things of life—justice, truth, order, peace—came only with Christianity and were not an integral part of life before Jesus. You can’t have them without Jesus.

A Fundamental Dependence: I John 5:12

As the Israelites in the wilderness depended on God for water and food, we depend on Jesus for life. The imagery of the rock, struck for water, and Jesus, the Rock broken that we might have life, remind us that we can’t fix ourselves any more than the Israelites could make water.

A Final Question: John 6:67-8

Where else could we go? The exclusive and particular answer—only Jesus. He is the source of all life, both the corporate life of the church worshipping and living together and the individual life of the saint who trusts in Him alone. To be “washed from the inside out,” we must take the entire package.