



# NEW LIFE

## BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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*“For the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Rev 1:9)*

Vol. 29 No. 22

**LORD’S DAY 01 JUNE 2025**

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

#### *Morning Service – 11am*

*Prelude*

*The Lord Is in His Holy Temple*

*Call to Worship*

Psalm 19:1-4

*Opening Hymn \**

RHC 6 – “*The Spacious Firmament on High*”

*Opening Prayer*

John Poh

*Responsive Reading*

Psalm 4

*Second Hymn \**

*Psalm 4:1-5*

*(to the tune of Evan, RHC 379)*

*Scriptural Text*

Acts 9:1-9

*Pastoral Prayer*

Rev Carl Vermeulen

*Sermon Message*

*The ascended Lord Jesus converts a proud persecutor of His church into a humble and submissive servant.*

*Closing Hymn \**

RHC 421 – “*Have Thine Own Way, Lord!*”

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen \**

Rev Carl Vermeulen

*Postlude*

*The Lord Bless You*

*\* Congregation Stands*

#### **THE LORD IS IN HIS HOLY TEMPLE**

The Lord is in His holy temple,  
The Lord is in His holy temple:  
Let all the earth keep silence,  
Let all the earth keep silence before Him -  
Keep silence, keep silence before Him. Amen.

#### **THE LORD BLESS YOU**

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
The Lord lift His countenance upon you,  
and give you peace, and give you peace;  
The Lord make His face to shine upon you,  
And be gracious unto you, be gracious,  
The Lord be gracious, gracious unto you. Amen.

### **SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 60**

**Q: How is the Sabbath to be sanctified?**

*A: : The Sabbath is to be sanctified by a holy RESTING all that day, even from such worldly employments and recreations as are lawful on other days; and spending the whole time in the public and private exercises of God’s worship, except so much as is to be taken up in the works of NECESSITY and MERCY.*

Comments:

This answer teaches us that the proper way of observing the Sabbath is by: 1. Resting from all secular work; 2. Ceasing from amusement; 3. Engaging in public worship; 4. Engaging in private worship. The only kinds of work allowable on the Sabbath are works of necessity – that is, such as cannot be done on the Saturday, nor left over till the Monday; and works of mercy – that is, such as it would be cruel to omit.

Scriptural Reference:

Leviticus 23:3; Psalm 92:1; Matthew 12:11-12

Dear brethren, this week, we will continue publishing articles covering the Discipleship series written by Rev Jack Sin, Pastor of Sovereign Hope Bible-Presbyterian Church in Singapore. The second article is entitled "Discipleship & The Great Commission".

## **Discipleship & The Great Commission**

**Christian discipleship is mandated in the Great Commission. After the resurrection and before He ascended into heaven, Jesus appeared one last time to His disciples** (they were eleven in number at that time, since Judas Iscariot had betrayed Jesus and hanged himself). Here our Lord gave the charge for all true disciples with a divine mission commonly called The Great Commission (Matt 28:18-20).

Christian discipleship is evidenced in the early church as the followers of Jesus gathered in Jerusalem and Peter gave the criteria for selecting an apostle to replace Judas Iscariot. The Scripture says they drew lots and the lot fell to Matthias (Acts 1:21-24). These men, who had previously been disciples, of Jesus, were now to become an apostle. Their calling was to share Christ, and from Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came and indwelt them as it was in the OT upon the elect of God (See Acts 1 and 2).

Look at Mark 16:15. He said, *"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."* Matthew says make disciples. Mark says preach the gospel because they are one and the same. And, *"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved"*. Luke, he said, *"Saying, the Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again."* (Luke 24:7), this adds more words to that great commission. *"And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."* (Luke 24:47). That is our duty and privilege as well.

Matthew says **make disciples** (Matt 28:18-20); Mark says **preach the gospel** (Mark 16:15); Luke says **proclaim repentance for forgiveness and speak of the death and resurrection of Christ** (Lk 24:44-45); it is all one and the same. **The Great Commission then is to preach the death and resurrection of Christ, preach repentance for the forgiveness of sins, and call for faith to make disciples.** That sums it all up.

The mission of the church is to share Christ and to make disciples, to bring people into a saving relationship with God through faith in Christ Jesus. Disciples are people who truly believe the gospel and who repented from their sin to embrace the saving doctrines of God, who have had a transformed life by the Spirit and willing to obey what the Lord has commanded them.

**The term "disciple" is used synonymously for believer.** Consider the record of the early church, the book of Acts. Acts 6:1&2 says, *"And in those days, when the number of the disciples were multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration. Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables."* Now it says that the disciples were increasing and the Twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples. In verse 7, *"And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly"*. In true Conversion, believers became committed disciples and are authentic followers of Christ.

The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch. Disciple and believer is the same for the true believer is a committed disciple, of Christ in his or her heart. Acts 14:20 says, *"Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city" and that has to do with the believers where Paul was stoned, "the next day he departed with Barnabas"*. Therefore, true Christians are also called disciples.

And then in Acts 15:10, *"Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?"* says Peter. So, believer, became a true disciple and there is no dichotomy here.

**When He called some, our Lord instructed them about the cost of following Him. Half-hearted people who were not willing to make the commitment could not respond in the end although they made initial professions** (Luke 9:56-62). He turned away the reluctant to pay the price, like the rich young ruler. Discipleship has a price, and some gave up following Christ as the goats are separated from the sheep in the final test.

**The road to heaven is strewn with the wreckage of half-built lives. The ruins of those who began to build and were unable to finish. For many still ignore Christ's warning and wants to follow Him without considering the cost.** The result is the great shocker of Christendom with many so-called Christians in name. In many western countries there is just a veneer of Christianity but not willing to carry their own cross. **They have come to church out of convenience but not the conviction of sin. Their religion is a crutch for bad times only with no devotion to God and no self-denial. Religion to them is to provide and to protect them in a worldly sense and to suit their convenience but there is no repentance of sins at all.**

It is like the general who went to war and was not prepared with his arsenal and soldiers. There is a understanding of the total cost of giving up one's life for Christ. The true Christian is not one who pays for fire insurance, just to keep himself out of fire with no commitment to the safety of his soul eternally.

A Puritan William Perkins wrote these words, *"The true Christian is of this disposition of mind that if there were no conscience to accuse, no devil to terrify, no judge to arraign or condemn, no hell to torment, yet he would be humbled and brought to his knees for his sins because he has offended a loving merciful and long-suffering God,"* end quote. That is the difference. The truly repentant sinner is devastated by the way he has offended God with his sin. **A true disciple loves and obeys God and is willing to pay the price. We have that genuine saving relationship which God has in His grace and mercy given to us and it is costly, and we truly embrace it willingly.**

God calls us to love Him and Christ and to obey His Word. There is a willing heart to submit to him. These are evidence of God's saving work which truly change our lives to be in conformity to Christ.

Matthew 10 emphasises the necessity of true discipleship. Remember now, Jesus says in Matt 10:32, *"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven."* Jesus says, *"For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother"* (Matt 10:35), and *"He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me"* (Matt 10:37). Jesus said, *"Take up your cross and follow after Me,"* giving all of these elements of discipleship.

And in the passage of Mark, it is noted that Jesus was talking not only to the disciples, which Matthew emphasizes, but to the disciples and the crowd. And in Luke 14, which we referred to earlier, Luke took out the disciples and has Him speaking only to the crowd. Our Lord Jesus was putting forth the biblical standards of discipleship, it is a call to total consecration to Christ as a test of their true calling.

**There are often open false confessions to Christ in many mega churches with cheap grace and defective teaching on Christianity like the prosperity gospel with a desire for physical healing and personal gain.** In Matthew 7:22, some said, *"Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works like casting out devils?"*. But Our Lord said, *"I never knew you"*. **There are those who profess the name outwardly who are not truly born again with no true conversions of heart. We need to truly confess Him in our hearts first and then before men.** That is truly affirming our saving relationship with Christ. Romans 10:9 and 10 says, *"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus"*, as Lord. **Confess the Lord Jesus as your God first in your lives and then before men, which is a litmus test for a true disciple who is unashamed of the gospel and the cross of Christ with sacrifice and self-denial. Am I a true disciple of Christ today? Something to ponder and act upon.**

# WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON

Our Lord's Day activities begin with the **Worship Service** at **11.00 am** followed by a **Bible Study & Children's Sunday School** at **1:30pm**. Do invite your friends to come to Church.

## NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear Worshippers, we extend a warm welcome to you this Lord's Day. We hope that you have a blessed time worshipping with us today.

For those unable to attend Church in person, please join our Worship Service and Bible Study on our live-stream via YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/@NewLifeBPCLondon>

**We thank God for providing Rev Carl Vermeulen to minister to us this Lord's Day.**

Rev Vermeulen and his family will be returning to Australia this week. Do pray for their safe journey and for his ministry work in Australia.

Next week, Mr Charles Scott-Pearson will be ministering to us.

**Tithes & Offerings** – The offering box is located at the entrance to the Church Sanctuary.

**After-Service Fellowship** – Join us for lunch fellowship after the morning worship service.

Please bring your own lunch as only drinks will be provided.

**Afternoon Bible Study** – Rev Vermeulen will conclude the study on the Lord's Prayer.

**Children's Sunday School** – held after the After-Service Fellowship at 1:30pm.

## MEMORY VERSE

### This Week

*"But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:"*

**Acts 9:15**

### Last Week

*"Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour."*

**Matthew 15:28**

## Morning Service sermon and Afternoon Bible Study:

Dear brethren,

### Morning Sermon:

Rev Vermeulen will be preaching the sermon entitled "The ascended Lord Jesus converts a proud persecutor of His church into a humble and submissive servant" taken from Acts 9:1-9 and will be covering the following points:

1. The Lord of glory confronts Satan's instrument.
2. The Lord of the Church issues a command.
3. The Lord who has authority is obeyed.

### Afternoon Bible Study:

Rev Vermeulen will be concluding his teaching on the Lord's Prayer. Today's Bible Study is entitled "The 6th petition shows that the Lord's Prayer is a cry from the battlefield".

We will consider the dangerous reality of the battle, but also the complete victory we look forward to.