



HERALD PRESS

Are you serious about following Jesus?

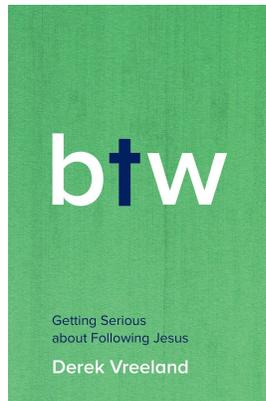
Pastor Derek Vreeland calls Christians to discipleship in *By the Way*

“An important and timely book written by an experienced pastor seeking to close the embarrassing gap between what is glibly called ‘salvation’ and the way of discipleship that Jesus actually calls us to.”

—**BRIAN ZAHND**, founder and lead pastor of Word of Life Church and author of *Postcards from Babylon*

“Practical and compelling guidebook for followers of Jesus! *By the Way* shows us how a life of radical allegiance to Jesus is not only possible, but the only way to really live.”

—**BRUXY CAVEY**, author of *Reunion* and senior pastor of The Meeting House



HARRISONBURG, Va. — What if asking Jesus into our hearts is not the heart of the gospel? Jesus commanded his followers to “go therefore and make disciples.” So what does that look like? In *By the Way: Getting Serious about Following Jesus* (Herald Press, June 2019), pastor and author Derek Vreeland reframes much of what we’ve been told about Christianity and what it means to follow Jesus and make disciples.

We learn the ways of Jesus by practicing them. Discipleship means joining God’s mission of reconciliation on earth, not just saving souls for the afterlife. We are meant to follow Jesus, follow his teaching, follow his example. Jesus drew people to him. We are not meant to keep our faith to ourselves and live individually. We are meant to create more followers, according to Vreeland.

“Often, the church in North America has transformed the gospel from a corporate, communal understanding to an individualistic, private faith,” writes Dr. Derwin Gray in the foreword. “The gospel becomes a story of how Jesus came to save me from the wrath of God and to help me reach heaven when I die, instead of a story of God in Christ rescuing, reconciling, and redeeming a people who exist for the glory and mission of God.”

“Believing in Jesus and following Jesus in a world where Christians no longer have the most influential voice in cultural discussions requires the kind of Christian life where people are serious about discipleship,” Vreeland says. “I can’t rest knowing that we in the church are producing good, educated, ‘Spirit-filled’ people, but not people who live distinct lives shaped by the cross and resurrection. This book is my humble attempt to change that trend.”

Derek Vreeland is the discipleship pastor at Word of Life Church in Saint Joseph, Missouri, where he leads small groups and discipleship ministries and serves on the pastoral leadership team along with Brian and Peri Zahnd. Vreeland is a regular contributor at Missio Alliance, and his work has been published by *Outreach*. The author of several books, Vreeland has degrees from Missouri Western State University, Oral Roberts University, and Asbury Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Jenni, have three sons.



To schedule an interview with Derek Vreeland, contact LeAnn Hamby at 540-908-3941 or LeAnnH@mennomedia.org.