



# DOCWALK

Putting into practice what you SAY you believe

# LARRY DIXON

CHRISTIAN FOCUS





Other works by Larry Dixon:  
“DocDEVOS,” “DocTALK,”  
“The Other Side of the Good News: Contemporary Challenges to Jesus’ Teaching on Hell,”  
and “Heaven: Thinking Now about Forever.”

Dr. Dixon’s website is [www.theoprof.com](http://www.theoprof.com)

© Copyright Larry Dixon 2005

ISBN 1-84550-052-0

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Published in 2005  
by  
Christian Focus Publications, Geanies House, Fearn,  
Tain, Ross-shire, IV20 1TW, Scotland.

[www.christianfocus.com](http://www.christianfocus.com)

Printed and bound by  
CPD, Wales

Cover Design by Alister MacInnes  
Cartoons © Copyright Ron Wheeler

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form, by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the prior permission of the publisher or a license permitting restricted copying. In the U.K. such licenses are issued by the Copyright Licensing Agency, 90 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 9HE.

Unless otherwise stated, Scripture quotations are taken from  
The Holy Bible, New International Version © 1973,1978, 1984 by International  
Bible Society, or from the King James Version (KJV)





# Dedication

---

This work is fondly dedicated to Mr. Tom Taylor, my former seminary professor, gifted mentor, and friend. Tom, thank you for your input in my life and ministry. Your infectious humor and commitment to “building up the saints” inspires me (and numerous others) to “serve the Lord with gladness.” (I still think we’ll get to have our table tennis match in glory!)







## Foreword

---

Contemporary Christian literature, other than the fiction market, tends to develop particular themes in which some books are written polemically (to make us decide on a doctrine) and others are written rebukingly (to make us see the errors in some parts of our ways) and yet more are written devotionally (to warm our hearts with the Lord) while a few are written just to entertain us (to make us feel good). In his sequel to the earlier book *DocTALK*, Dr. Dixon has succeeded in using all four of these motifs in a most profitable way. He begins by a reminder of sound doctrine underlying the life of the Christian and then prompts us to think of some of the practices of life that do or do not conform to this foundation. He maintains our interest with meaningful and often amusing illustrations and personal accounts in which he is not always the hero, thereby allowing us to identify with him in the positions he affirms. Throughout the book he encourages a warm love for the Lord and His will.

Dixon does these things without a lot of fanfare or excessive claims for infallibility. One cannot help but be encouraged at the positive tone the book assumes and the challenge that it offers that our “walk” should be an accurate and meaningful expression of our belief. Unlike the common axiom “clothes





## 10 DocWALK

---

make the man”, Dixon regularly asserts that doctrine should make us what we ought to be. It is doctrine in practice, however, not merely a creedal affirmation. The four parts of the book are cleverly arranged to cover the believer’s life beginning with the believer’s acceptance and concluding with the believer’s actions. There is no hidden agenda in the book and no threatening mailed fist. It provides genuine spiritual insight combined with meaningful application. His friendly style and approach to the subject will maintain interest and any serious reader will find helpful and encouraging food for thought.

Thomas V. Taylor, STD  
Professor Emeritus,  
Biblical Theological Seminary,  
Hatfield, Pennsylvania





# Introduction

---

*DocWALK* is a logical follow-up to *DocTALK*,<sup>1</sup> our survey of all ten areas of Christian doctrine. In *DocTALK* our concern was right belief. What are Christians supposed to believe about the doctrine of Christ, the doctrine of sin, the doctrine of the Holy Spirit, the doctrine of the church? In this text our concern is right behavior. The late Dr. Francis Schaeffer said, “There is only one command for those who do not believe in Christ – and it is this: *Watch those who do!*” We are a watched people and we had better be a well-behaved people. C. S. Lewis put it this way: “When we Christians behave badly, or fail to behave well, we are making Christianity unbelievable to the outside world.”<sup>2</sup>

I understand that the U.S. Forest Service received the following actual comments from backpackers after wilderness camping trips: “Trails need to be reconstructed. Please avoid building trails that go uphill.” “Too many bugs and spiders.

---

<sup>1</sup> *DocTALK: A Fairly Serious Survey of All That Theological Stuff* (Fearn, Ross-shire, Great Britain: Christian Focus Publications, 2002).

<sup>2</sup> C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (New York: Macmillan, 1972, 16<sup>th</sup> printing), Bk. IV, Ch. 10, p. 176.



Please spray the area to get rid of these pests.” “Chairlifts are needed so we can get to the wonderful views without having to hike to them.” “A McDonald’s would be nice at trail head.” “Too many rocks in the mountains.” And my favorite: “The coyotes made too much noise last night and kept me awake. Please eradicate these annoying animals.”

The Christian life often seems uphill, filled with “pests,” and having too many rocks along the path. The annoyances are many and the way can be hard.

There are, of course, different ways of describing the Christian life. Some see it as a journey, some as a hike (with or without coyotes); others act as if it were a jog in the park. Some give the impression that it is a non-stop trip into the valley of the shadow of death! The Scriptures frequently describe the Christian life as a “walk.” The Bible begins with Adam and Eve hearing God walking in the garden of Eden in Genesis 3:8 – and they hide from Him because of their sin. We are given the godly example of Enoch in Genesis 5 where we read that “Enoch walked with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Enoch lived 365 years. Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away” (vv. 22-24). One preacher said that Enoch’s walk with the Lord was so close that one day, as they walked together, God said to Enoch, “Enoch, we’re closer to my house here. Why don’t you just come home with me?”

Numerous texts talk about the godly walk. Psalm 116 tells us, “Be at rest once more, O my soul, for the LORD has been good to you. For you, O LORD, have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling, that I may walk before the LORD in the land of the living” (vv. 7-9). The well-known first Psalm states, “Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night” (vv. 1-2). Isaiah invites God’s people in his second chapter: “Come, O house of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the LORD” (2:5). Isaiah cries out in the thirtieth chapter:



O people of Zion, who live in Jerusalem, you will weep no more. How gracious he will be when you cry for help! As soon as he hears, he will answer you. Although the LORD gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, your teachers will be hidden no more; with your own eyes you will see them. Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it" (vv. 19-21).

We read in Isaiah 40:28-31,

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.<sup>29</sup> He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.<sup>30</sup> Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall;<sup>31</sup> but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Jeremiah declares in his sixth chapter, "This is what the LORD says: 'Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. But you said, 'We will not walk in it.'" (6:16).

The Lord Jesus says in John 8:12, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." We read in John 12:35, "Then Jesus told them, "You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. Those who walk in the dark do not know where they are going.'"

Paul challenges the Ephesian Christians in Ephesians 4:1-2, "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love" (KJV). We also read Paul's prayer in Colossians 1: "For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for



## 14 DocWALK

---

you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God..." (vv. 9-10, KJV).

To walk worthy of the Lord involves knowing that we have been redeemed, ransomed, rescued and reconciled because of the atoning work of Christ. We require a trustworthy and authoritative map to guide our way. The journey will require the very best of us, utilizing every aspect of our mind, emotions, will, speech, and bodies. How we relate to those not yet on the journey as well as how we walk with those in God's family are of key importance. As we saw from the comments certain hikers made to the U.S. Forest Service, our attitudes on the journey are absolutely critical. What actions are required on the believer's journey? How may such a traveler maintain assurance in traveling in such an uncertain world? And why the journey in the first place? What is the believer anticipating as he travels life's road? Ready for the journey together?

