

# Not by Xerox

#0177

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—May 12, 1978

We have a wonderful promise to read from God's Word tonight. It's found in Hebrews 10:16. I was lead to think again on this verse for an experience I had not long ago. I'm sure that many of you've had a similar experience. I had a letter that I received that I was sending a brief answer to, and I wanted a copy, so I took it to the machine, and presently they gave me a copy. "Well," you say, "There's nothing strange about that, that's happening all the time." It surely is. I suppose it's not too much to say that thousands of Xerox copies are coming from the machine every hour, perhaps every minute—at least during the business day. We've gotten in the habit of thinking that's an easy way and quick way to duplicate things. But my subject tonight is: Not by Xerox. You'll see what we're getting at presently.

Now for our text:

"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more" Hebrews 10:16–17.

God is in the writing business. It's what He says: "I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them." But it is not by a Xerox machine that this is accomplished. In the first place, it doesn't happen that rapidly. It's true that there are some things that can be done by the Lord in dealing with our minds and hearts very quickly. Saul of Tarsus had a wonderful awakening on the way to Damascus. He started on that road a persecutor. Before he finished, his course was completely changed. But there was still much for Paul to learn, still much for him to experience. In fact years later, writing from the dungeon at Rome, he said to his converts at Philippi, I haven't already attained. I haven't reached perfection yet. But I'm on the road, and I'm reaching forth, reaching out and pressing on to that mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Yes, there are some things that God takes time to do. Writing His law in our hearts and minds is one of them, friends.

And so, it is not by Xerox, not by a quick running through a machine, that we are taught all the truth that God desires us to learn, neither do we instantly experience all that God wants us to experience, step by step. In fact, the wise man says that:

"... the path of the righteous is as the light of dawn, that shines more and more unto the perfect day" Proverbs 4:18 (Margin).

You can take a photograph of the beauties of the sunrise either just before or just after the sun has shone its face, but no matter where or when you take your picture, it was a little different a little bit before, and it'll be still different a few minutes after, won't it? That's the way it is. This is one of the great beauties that we observe in nature—the changing pattern, the development of pattern, different, varying on and on. This is why we enjoy looking at nature. Even if we go down to the ocean and watch the restless waves as they come in, wave after wave. You can take a picture of those waves, and you can take another picture and another picture, you'll never find two wave patterns the same—never.

In the wintertime, as the snow comes down, you look at those tiny crystals magnified with a small glass; sometimes you can observe them with the naked eye, six-sided, geometric designs, beautifully jeweled, marvelous in their craftsmanship, and never two alike—each one a separate pattern.

Then turning from the small to the large, we think of the glory of the heavens. As the Creator invites us:

“Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that brings out their host by number: He calls them all by names by the greatness of His might, for that He is strong in power; not one fails” Isaiah 40:26.

And if we study into those beautiful objects in the sky, if we look at them just with the unaided eye or with the help of the telescope, we discern glories in the different color arrangements and the different patterns, and we appreciate what Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 15 that one star differs from another star in glory.

Not by Xerox that the stars are turned out or the snowflakes. Each one is a new pattern, unlike anything before, and never will be again. And in all this, God is seeking to tell us an infinitely precious truth concerning His evaluation of you and me. If He takes this much pain, shall I say, with inanimate objects of snowflake and star, how much more so with the creatures formed in His image, for man was made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26–27). Man was to bear God's image. But God never intended, it was not His plan, it was not His thought, that in making the human family in His image that each one should be a Xerox copy of somebody else. Not so. Travel over the earth, go where you will, you'll never find two duplicates. Even identical twins are not identical. Each has his own personality.

I said all that to say this, my dear friends: In the work of the Gospel, God is seeking to preserve and enhance that individuality rather than to minimize it or lay it aside. The Gospel is not an arrangement for making a large number of Xerox copies, even of good characters.

Did you ever see someone that you admired very much and said, “Oh, I wish I could be like him, or I wish I could be like her?” Well, don't wish that. In the first place, it's an idle wish—you can't. In the second place, if you *could*, there would be one too many. One is enough of each one. In the vain endeavor to copy or imitate somebody else, you may miss—you *will* miss if you're not careful, the glorious

opportunity of being the man that God meant you to be, the woman that you were born to be.

I'm thinking tonight especially of our experiences in health, and in the spiritual things of life. You know, we're living in a day when every wind of teaching is blowing—all kinds of ideas about health. Books by the hundreds written; some of them it seems to me largely to make money. But whatever the motive, books on health, yes, by the score, by the hundreds, by the *thousands*—all kinds of ideas.

In religion it's the same—all kinds of ideas on how to find happiness; how to get your prayers answered; how to develop a feeling of security; how to have a fellowship with God. And I'm sure that some of these books on health and some of these books about religion have many wonderful things in them. But I want to tell you something, friends: unless they're inspired, they also have some things in them that probably would be better sifted out.

But that's not my main thought tonight; I come closer to it. Even an inspired book was not made to turn you out a Xerox copy of somebody else. Even an inspired book was not meant to put you in a mold so that you become stereotyped and think and act exactly like somebody else, whether that's in matters of health or matters of religion. "Well," someone says, "Brother Frazee, I'm glad to hear you say that because I really want to do my own thing anyway."

You probably will anyway whether I say anything about it or not. People are adept at that. While we do have the spirit to do our own thing, we need to recognize that while it can be overdone, there's an element of divine planning in it. God, as I have said, has made you an individual, and He wants you to walk in the light that shines on your pathway. He wants you to rejoice in the fact that God has called you into a personal fellowship with Himself.

Isn't it a wonderful thing, friends, that when you hear some new thing in health or in diet or nutrition or in prayer or Bible study, or some religious duty, you can go to God yourself personally and get down on your knees and say, "Dear Lord, You are my Creator. You made me. You are my Savior. You redeemed me. Take my hand and lead me in the path of righteousness for your name's sake." And He will do it, friends. If we play fair with God, we'll give Him an opportunity to lead us. He's willing to take us and guide us according to His counsels.

Don't misunderstand me, you know no matter carefully you state something, there's a way to twist it so it doesn't convey the truth at all. If I should stop where I am right now, (which I'm not going to do, but if I should) somebody might get the idea that there is no fixed pattern, that there are no definite standards, that there is no norm of truth. Nothing could be further from what I wish to study tonight.

God's law is eternal truth. You notice our text that we read in Hebrews, in fact, will you read it with me again:

"This is the covenant that I will make with them  
after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws  
into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them"

## Hebrews 10:16.

Notice, He does not say that you and I are to make up our own code. He does not say that we're to do every man which is right in his own eyes. He says, "I will write My laws in your minds and in your hearts." *God* is the authority, not you and me. While you and I are individuals, we are the creatures of His hand; we're the result of His special planning. And rather than leave it to our hit and miss, trial and error experience to find out that which is the good way, He says, If you only let Me, I'll write My laws in your minds so you'll know My will. I'll write My laws in your heart so you'll love Me.

When God came down on Mount Sinai and gave the Ten Commandments in an audible voice to the two million Hebrews encamped at the base of Horeb, and then when He gave Moses the Ten Commandments written on the tables of stone, He showed that here was a standard of eternal truth. Here was the expression of divine will, unmixed with human ideas. God Himself spoke those words, God Himself wrote those commandments on the stones.

And to show that that was important, you remember when Israel some days later apostatized while Moses was on the mountain getting those commandments from God, and when Moses came down the Mount and saw the golden calf there, and all the idolatry of Israel, and in his righteous wrath threw down those tables of the law and broke them, God did not say to Moses, Gather up the fragments and put them together. He did not say to Moses, Remember what you heard Me say, and remember what you saw Me write on the stone, and make a copy of it. He said nothing like that. He said, Moses, bring me up two tables of stone like the first, and I will write according to the first writing, the Ten Commandments. God wrote it the first time, and God wrote it the second time. I think He made an accurate copy, what do you say?

And these are the commandments. This is the law that He's promised to write in our minds and hearts. So I repeat, it's not a matter of turning everybody loose to do his own thing. Not so. Rather we have from God Himself laws just as fixed and settled in the spiritual realm that we do in the material universe.

Those men that made that historic trip to the moon, opening up new frontiers in space, they studied for a long time before every possible facet that might bear upon that trip. They became acquainted with the laws, not only of gravitation but of everything else that might help them to make that trip, and they were successful. Why? They did not *invent* those laws. They *studied* them. Who made them? God made them. And the same God that made those laws that guided the men in their moon flight is willing to guide you and me in our walk through life; as you were singing a few minutes ago, "All the way my Savior leads me."

But remember, He never arranges any two exactly alike. You know it's possible to be right and still have variety. It's possible for there to be beauty and still different colors. It's possible for there to be lovely songs and still different notes and different melodies. It's possible for there to be a great variety of human adaptations to the Creator's plan, and this is what we want to encourage. Not by Xerox are we brought to that place of reflecting the image of Jesus fully.

In this little book *Selected Messages*, Book 1, page 177, I read:

“All are not constituted alike. Conversions are not all alike”  
*Selected Messages*, Book 1, page 177.

Did any of you need a light brighter than the sun on the way to Damascus? Saul did. He told his experience again and again, but not with the idea that everybody else had to have an experience like him or else they weren't converted. Conversions are not all alike.

There is danger on two sides of this. When we hear somebody tell a wonderful experience that they've had with God, we're liable to think unless we're careful that we ought to have an experience, if not exactly like, quite a bit like that. It may not be so at all. If we have such an experience and we're not careful, we may give the impression that other people ought to go that same road.

“All are not constituted alike. Conversions are not all alike”  
*Ibid.*

“...leave the Lord room to work upon the mind. Lead the people to look to Jesus as their only hope and help...” *Ibid.*

I'm so glad that we can all encourage one another to look to Jesus, and believe that He will do in each life that marvelous work of grace that changes from sin to holiness, from transgression to obedience, from being lost to being saved. God is in the business. He says:

“Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth:  
for I am God, and there is none else” Isaiah 45:22.

“I, even I, am the LORD; and beside Me there is no Saviour”  
Isaiah 43:11.

So let us never think that if we could only get close enough to some spiritual leader, if we could only listen to enough tape recordings or read enough books or hear enough sermons that we would thereby become like somebody else, and thereby get ready for Heaven. No, friends. No. *Jesus* is the only pattern. And even Jesus does not impress Himself upon us by Xerox methods. Day by day, He builds up impressions, and they are different in the details with each individual because each one is different.

One afternoon, Ellen White was on the campground, this was, of course, many years ago, and as she was going toward the large tent, a girl approached her and said, “Sister White, are you going to speak this afternoon?”

Sister White said, “No, I won't be speaking this afternoon.”

The girl said, “Well, I and several of my young friends were hoping that you'd be speaking this afternoon because we can understand what you say.”

Then the little girl made bold to ask Sister White to ask the ministers if they would please use simple words. She said, "Tell them that we don't understand all about what justification and sanctification mean." Now, this happened a long time ago, so you understand I didn't make up that story for today, but it might help somebody today.

Justification is a good word; it's in the Bible, isn't it? Sanctification is a good word; it's in the Bible. But thank the Lord, friend, that Jesus is in the business of making truth simple to those who will open their minds. My point is: God wants you and me, as teachers of His Word, whether in the pulpit or in the home or in the school, He wants you and me to cultivate the art of making truth simple. I was going to say even for the children.

Most of us adults have minds that need to have truth simplified. I do. You'll allow me to say this: I've been studying the Scriptures for over 60 years, and the finespun theories of some who think they have discovered some wonderful thing leave me perplexed rather than helped. My little mind needs truth made very simple.

On that point, in the *Commentary, Volume 6*, page 1072, note this warning from the prophet to the remnant:

"Many commit the error of trying to define minutely the fine points of distinction between justification and sanctification"  
*Bible Commentary, Volume 6*, page 1072.

What is this called? An error. What is the error? The error is trying to define minutely the fine points of distinction between justification and sanctification. Somebody says, "Oh, I've got it." Did you ever see a child trying to chase a butterfly? Just when they thought they had it, off it flew. The idea that men can capture the definition of all the differences between justification and sanctification, that idea is a what? It's an error.

"Into the definitions of these two terms they often bring their own ideas and speculations. Why try to be more minute than is Inspiration on the vital question of righteousness by faith? Why try to work out every minute point, as if the salvation of the soul depended upon all having exactly your understanding of this matter? All cannot see in the same line of vision" *Ibid.*

I want you to repeat that last line with me:

"All cannot see in the same line of vision" *Ibid.*

Again:

"All cannot see in the same line of vision" *Ibid.*

And so, while we should seek to be in unity on the great pillars of truth, this does not mean that everyone will define his conception in precisely the same terms. It was never God's intention that it should be. And we're not to leave the impression that everybody has got to be Xerox copies of us, or that we in turn have got to be molded and made over into Xerox copies of somebody else. "All are not constituted alike. Conversions are not all alike."

In the book *Education*, page 231, I read one of the most wonderful sentences ever penned in the 20<sup>th</sup> century:

"The mind that depends upon the judgment of others is certain, sooner or later, to be misled" *Education*, page 231.

Who's our guide? Christ is. The apostle Peter was a wonderful leader in the church in the early days, yet God in His infinite wisdom allowed Peter to make some mistakes in judgment. I'm not speaking now of his terrible fall there in the courtyard in Jerusalem. That, of course, was a very sad exhibition of human frailty and weakness. But you remember that years later when Peter himself had been given the wonderful vision of the net let down, sheet let down, and through it had been led to welcome the Gentiles into the fellowship of the church, and then the Lord had brought the apostle Paul in, and Peter was one of those that gave him the right hand of fellowship.

But years later, up in Antioch, a great Gentile Christian center, Peter was there and he ate with the Gentile Christians, which the strict Jews down in Jerusalem wouldn't do. They would be defiled, you understand, if they did that. But Peter, knowing what God had revealed, was walking in the light. He sat down and ate with the Gentile Christians, which of course he *should* have done.

But by and by, as Paul tells it in his letter to the Galatians, there were some men who came from headquarters that came from James, it says. James was what we might call the president of the General Conference. He was the leader. Incidentally, that's a good proof text in showing that Peter never was the head of the church. The point is that when these men came from Jerusalem, Peter in his mind thought, "Wait a minute, they wouldn't like it if they see me eating with the Gentiles," so he withdrew and didn't eat at that table anymore; he ate simply with the Jews and not with the Gentiles.

Maybe we'd better turn and look at this, so you'll know I didn't make this up. Let's go to Galatians 2. I want you to see how even good men, if we're not careful, can lead us astray. God has appointed no one to be the full pattern except Jesus.

"But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision"  
Galatians 2:11-12.

Peter's whole weakness of being afraid of what people would say about him came to the surface.

“And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation” Galatians 2:13.

The next verse goes on to show how Paul rebuked him. My point is this: God allowed the apostle Peter, dear man that he was, to make that error of judgment. It wasn't a willful sin of rebellion. It was a mistaken idea of what was the wise thing to do. But God used Paul to reprove him and rebuke him.

But the apostle Paul was not above making a mistake in judgment. Years later, when he came to Jerusalem, and some of the brethren counseled him to go in and take part in observing the ceremonial law contrary to his own teaching, Paul thought, “Well, perhaps I'd better do it for the sake of unity.” He did it and as the result, there came that awful riot, and he was taken a prisoner, and finally after years of imprisonment, he was carried to Rome to be tried by Caesar.

So these things are written in the Bible to help us to realize that no human being, not even the best of men, can be depended upon in every case. And we're not to say that if we can only get close enough to Paul or close enough to Peter, or close enough to anybody in the church, and get me in my mind and heart a Xerox copy of what they think and what they believe, I'll be all right. No friend, you won't.

Jesus has undertaken your salvation, and He wants you to have an experience of digging for truth and finding truth. Get all the help you can from others, but never let your own mind be a Xeroxed copy.

This is impressed upon my mind as I see how easy it is for some minds to be led by some person who's agitating some ideas in religious or health matters, then that leader changes his views and teachings. So many times, those who are his followers, his disciples, they turn right around with him, even though it's a 180-degree turn. Isn't that a strange thing?

It comes back to this statement I read here:

“The mind that depends upon the judgment of others is certain sooner or later, to be misled” *Education*, page 231.

So, let's thank God this evening that it is not by Xerox. God Himself is teaching His children, and He will lead you. And as you study the Bible, as day by day you pour out your heart's longing: “Teach me Thy will O God, teach me Thy truth,” He will lead you and guide you, and He will help you to have an experience with Him.

This will lead to unity, not warfare. It will not lead to party spirit in the church. It will not lead people to say, “I belong to Paul's party,” and another one, “I belong to Peter's party,” another one, “I belong to Apollo's party.” No. Coming together at the feet of Jesus, we will find a sweet fellowship in recognizing the individuality of each



brother and sister, and the guiding, overruling providence of God, our Heavenly Father. For this, He created us by His word. For this, He redeemed us by His precious blood.

The Heavenly Potter is in the molding business, but He never makes two vessels alike. As God said of Paul, “He’s a chosen vessel unto Me.” He is saying it of each of you here tonight. Ah friends, you are too precious to have anything less than God's best will for your life worked out. In health, in religion, in your life work, in everything, to be what God meant for you to be—*this* is the beautiful thing.

[Testimony service]

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W. D. Frazee Sermons  
435 Lifestyle Lane, Wildwood, GA 30757  
1-800-WDF-1840 / 706-820-9755  
[www.WDFsermons.org](http://www.WDFsermons.org)  
[support@WDFsermons.org](mailto:support@WDFsermons.org)