

That phrase strikes me as an apt description of our lives and the people we meet day by day. Wherever we live, we cross paths with people from many backgrounds and beliefs.

For years, the apostle Paul traveled and preached before being imprisoned in Rome. There he continued to touch people with the gospel because he cared about them and wanted them to know Jesus Christ. The book of Acts concludes with Paul confined in Rome, living under guard in a rented house, where he “received all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 28:30-31).

Instead of focusing on his restrictions, Paul saw opportunities. That’s the key for us as well. There is a universe of humanity within our reach today. —David McCasland

You are called with a holy calling
The light of the world to be,
To lift up the lamp of the gospel
That others the light may see. —Anon.

The gospel is a priceless gift that’s offered free to everyone.



Central Mountains Baptist Church

OCTOBER 8, 2017

A Universe Of Humanity

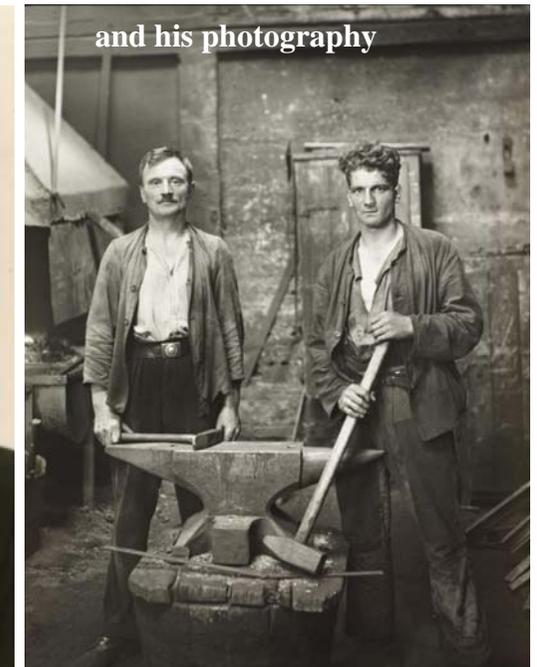
Paul . . . received all who came to him. —Acts 28:30

During the 1920s and 30s, photographer August Sander set out to portray a cross-section of German society. Through his lens he saw factory workers and financiers, actresses and housewives, Nazis and Jews. Even though his published collection contains only people in and around his hometown of Cologne, he captured what David Propson, writing in *The Wall Street Journal*, called “a universe of humanity in his restricted sphere.”

August Sander



and his photography



Insights for Living Learning from the Church at Philippi (3)



(Philippians 1:1) "Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:"

(Colossians 1:1) "Paul, an apostle .. and Timothy our brother,"

(Philemon 1:1) "Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, ..,"

Considering Philippians 1:1 we are lead to make two further background comments:

1. Paul's _____, Acts 28:16-31

#1. See and use the _____, verses 16-23

(Matthew 10:16-20) ""Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. ... [17] "..beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues. [18] "You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. [19] "But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; [20] "for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you."



Jack Dorsey

#2. _____ God, verses 24-29

(Romans 9:1-3) "I tell the truth in Christ, .. {2} that I have .. continual grief in my heart. {3} For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh,"

(Acts 17:17) ".. he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshippers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there."

(Isaiah 55:10-11) ""For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, [11] So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."

(Habakkuk 3:2) ".. O LORD, revive Your work in the midst of the years! In the midst of the years make it known; In wrath remember mercy."

(Acts 1:8) ""But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.""



The joy of witnessing

#3. Be _____, verses 30-31, Phil 4:11-13

(Philippians 4:11-13) "Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: {12} I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. {13} I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

(Ephesians 1:1) "Paul, an apostle .. To the .. faithful in Christ Jesus:"

(Colossians 1:2) "To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are in Colosse: ..."

(Romans 12:2) "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, ..."



The world is like a rip pulling us away from God

2. Philippi's _____, Phil 1:1

#1. S _____, verse 1

(Acts 11:26) ".. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch."

(Romans 8:9) ".. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His."

(John 3:3) ".. "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.""

(John 3:16) ""For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

(Romans 3:28) "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith ..."

(Romans 4:5) "But to him who .. believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,"

(Romans 12:4-5) "For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, {5} so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another."

(1 Timothy 5:9-10) "Let a widow be put on the list only if she is not less than sixty years old, having been the wife of one man, {10} .. and if she has devoted herself to every good work."

(Romans 12:6) Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: ..;"

(Romans 6:23) "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."



Violinist or bricklayer?

#2. D _____, verse 1

(Acts 6:3-5) ""Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; {4} "but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word." {5} And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, ..,"



Pray for church eadership

#3. B _____, verse 1

(Acts 20:17) "From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the **elders** of the church."

(Acts 20:28) ""Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers**, to **shepherd** the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."