

Blessed are the Crushed

"...the truth is that this world,
however compromised it is, is the
only one we have." Philip Sheldrake
Spaces for the Sacred

God is involved in the physical world

Leonard Hjalmarson writes in *No Home Like Place*, "Both the Incarnation and the Resurrection, affirm that God sustains and is intimately involved in the physical world."

Blessing as a performative word

“In the biblical world a blessing was a set of ‘power-laden’ words thought to have ability to create or maintain the well being of the person or community. It was much more than a kind or encouraging word. Indeed, the blessing should be understood as a performative utterance...”

Westminster Theological Word Book of the Bible

Clearly, there is one place, and only one, and that is where the poorest, meekest, and most sorely tried of all men is to be found—on the Cross at Golgotha. The fellowship of the Beatitudes is the fellowship of the Crucified. With him it has lost all, and with him it is found all. From the cross there comes the call “blessed, blessed.”

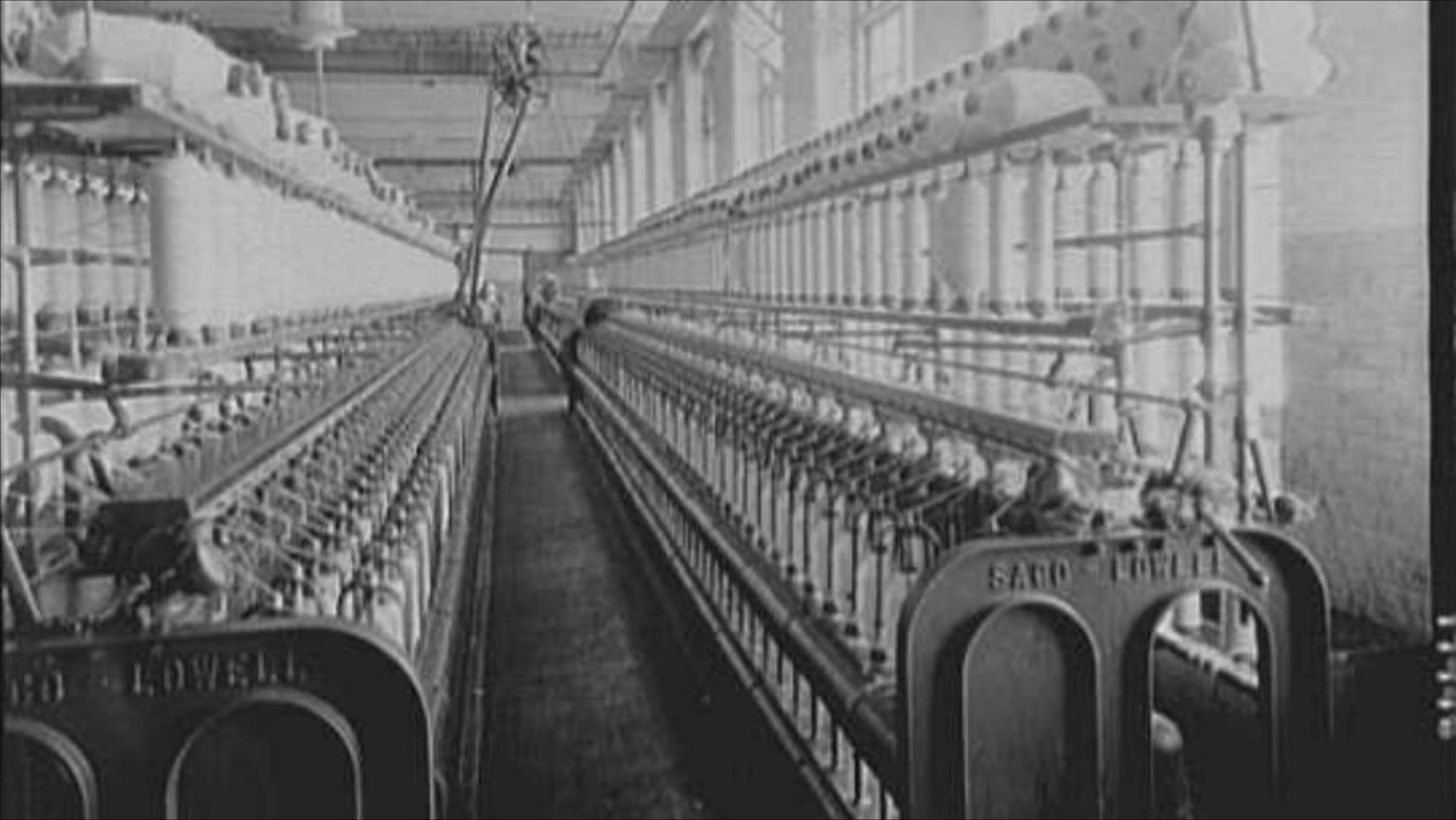
The Cost of Discipleship, Dietrich Bonhoeffer

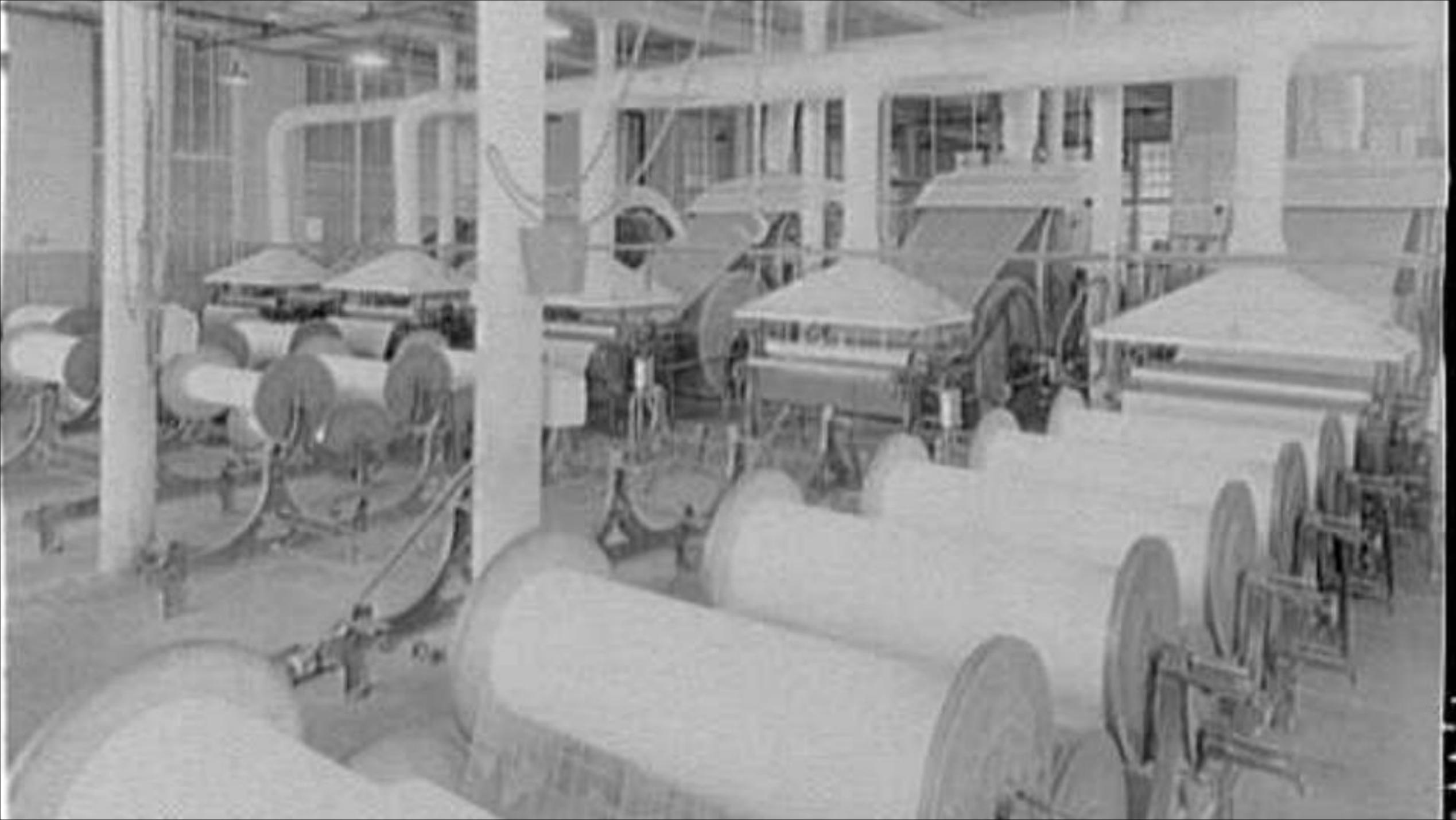
Being a child of God

“The awareness of being a child of God tends to stabilize the ego and results in a new courage, fearlessness, and power. I have seen it happen again and again.” (Howard Thurman, *Jesus and the Disinherited*)

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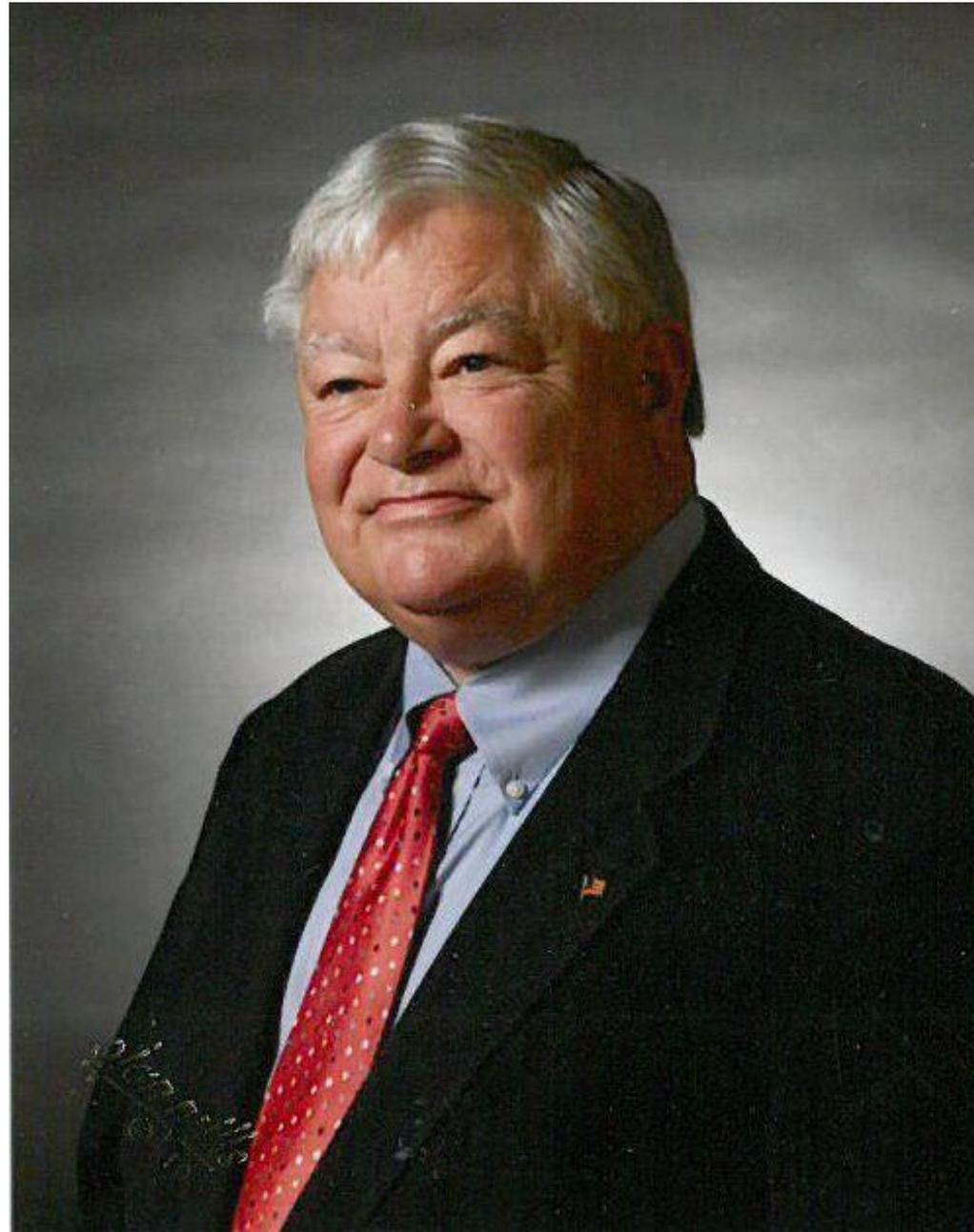
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Blessed are the crushed through whom we are blessed when we're joined with them and with Jesus on the cross, our pretenses obliterated, our losses laid bare, our powerlessness undeniable, our need for community, redemption, resurrection and new life met in the grace and justice and mercy and power of God.



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