

Week 2 Philippians 1.12-18a

*The King is Proclaimed*

- I. Prayer
- II. Opening Question
  - a. When have you been faced with seemingly insurmountable problems, and seen God work good out of them? How did the experience(s) affect your faith?
- III. Read N.T. Wright Commentary p.87-90
- IV. Scan Aesthetic Commentary p.39-47
- V. Discussion Questions
  - a. If you were to identify a “bold witness to Jesus Christ” among your friends and acquaintances, who comes to mind? What about this person shapes their witness?
  - b. How has the faith and witness of this person impacted you or changed your life?
  - c. How much of this person’s faith is expressed verbally, and how much is communicated in other ways? In what other ways have you experienced their faith?
  - d. Francis of Assisi is attributed with saying, “Always preach the gospel—use words if you must.” What does this say to you about proclaiming Christ in your life?
  - e. Have your plans and intentions “redirected” by God? What was the outcome?
  - f. Is there a part of your life that, if God were to suddenly change it, would cause you to question God’s will and God’s purpose?
  - g. How would you describe Paul’s mood throughout this passage?
  - h. In what ways had Paul’s imprisonment helped the gospel on its way (vv. 12-14)?
  - i. Consider Paul’s response to the insincere teachers (v. 18). How can we apply the spirit of his response to those who talk about Jesus today, even for the wrong reasons?
  - j. How were the Philippians likely to feel knowing that Paul was in prison in Ephesus?
  - k. How would his words here comfort and encourage them?