**The King and His Cross**

(Philippians 2:5-11)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How would the Jews of Jesus’ day have viewed Roman crucifixion (compare Deuteronomy 21:22-23 and 1 Corinthians 1:23)? Review the following texts and explain (a) why the cross was necessary and (b) what happened on the cross: Romans 3:21-26, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Galatians 3:10-14, Colossians 2:13-15, Hebrews 2:17-18; 10:5-10, 1 Peter 2:24. In your own words, explain why the title “The King and His Cross” is, in essence, an oxymoron. Why did the disciples of Christ struggle to understand his mission (prior to his resurrection)?
2. (vv. 6-8) In your own words, explain what Paul means when he says that Christ was “in the form of God” (see John 1:1)? How does this understanding highlight the humiliation of the fact that he “made himself nothing” (or “made himself of no reputation”)? Why is the fact that Christ was fully God and fully man (hypostatic union) so crucial to Christian theology? In what way(s) does this fact set Jesus Christ apart from every other so-called god and world religion? What comfort(s) can be found in understanding the Incarnation of Christ?
3. (vv. 9-11) In light of Christ’s work of redemption (Incarnation, death on the cross), what has the Father done for him? How does this help you understand Hebrews 12:2? In your own words, explain what the divine title “Lord” means (see Acts 2:36, Rom. 10:9, 1 Cor. 12:3; 15:57, Eph. 4:5, Rev. 19:16). How does this understanding of “Lord” refute the idea that Jesus Christ can be your Savior without being your Lord? In practical terms, what does it mean that Jesus Christ is the “Lord of your life”?
4. (v. 5) Review verses 1-4 and explain what Paul is calling for among the Philippian believers. In your own words, explain how Paul aims to highlight the Person and work of Jesus Christ as a means of producing these things among the Philippian believers. In light of this passage (vv. 1-11), explain how the glory of the gospel should produce both praise and practice in your life. Make a list of practical ways in which the gospel should propel you out into your home, community, job, and church to serve, love, and encourage others.