Wright Ch. 13: Questions for Write-Around

1. According to Wright in Chapter 13, what is the difference between ‘building the kingdom’ and ‘building for the kingdom’?
2. What types of things, do you imagine, will be brought forward into God’s new world? Can you think of any examples from your own life?
3. **Justice.** Wright focuses quite a bit of energy elucidating the injustice of wealth distribution. What **present injustice in the world** are *you* most aware of?
4. **Beauty.** According to Wright, what can/should/do artists do for the kingdom?
5. **Evangelism.** Wright uses many words to describe how the ‘good news’ might be rightly communicated. Which phrases do you find most winsome/compelling/attractive? By contrast, have you ever been *evangelized* in a naïve, tactless, frightening, or bullying way?
6. On page 212, Wright says, “*But idolatry is always the perversion of something good.”* How do you respond? Augustine (and also C.S. Lewis after him) might argue that “the perversion (or distortion) of something good” is a workable general definition of sin. Would you agree? Also consider looking for the good in an idol: what got twisted? And if it was once good, it's redeemable, too. Can you describe specific examples of such idols and their original goods?
7. One page 231, Wright says, “And when people cease to be surrounded by beauty, they cease to hope…” and on page 223, “part of being made in God's image that we are ourselves creators or at least procreator.” Sin is not located in one place and goodness in others – sin is everywhere and so is God. So: Take a mental tour around Calvin’s campus (maybe focus on areas you visit often or ones related to the discipline(s) you want to specialize in…or, think about art and other human-created beautiful things around campus). What do you see, what do the people in this space value; where do they find beauty and how do they look at the world in a particular way?
8. Try to list some ways you see evidence of Christians or the church transforming the world and building the kingdom of God; and ways where Christians and the church have failed. Comment on your list, and others’ entries. It's likely some things may show up on both sides of the list – prepare to talk about how complicated this is.