

**LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS**  
**for the Week of March 26, 2017**

**BEAUTIFUL ORTHODOXY:**  
*Living a Good and Beautiful Life*  
**James 3:13-18**

1. What was some of the best advice you've ever received?

How do you discern between *wise* advice and *bad* advice? How can you tell?

2. Can you tell the difference between *worldly* wisdom and *godly* wisdom? Read the "wise sayings" below and next to each one write "W" for worldly wisdom or "G" for godly wisdom. Then discuss *why* you marked each quote as you did.

\_\_\_\_\_ The best advice I ever received was simply to "follow your heart!"

\_\_\_\_\_ Never judge a book by its cover.

\_\_\_\_\_ God helps those who help themselves.

\_\_\_\_\_ Cleanliness is next to godliness.

\_\_\_\_\_ Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall.

\_\_\_\_\_ You ain't learnin' nothin' when your mouths a-jawin.'

\_\_\_\_\_ The ends justifies the means.

\_\_\_\_\_ Live and let live.

\_\_\_\_\_ If you want something done right, do it yourself.

\_\_\_\_\_ Speak softly and carry a big stick.

\_\_\_\_\_ I can do whatever I want, as long as it doesn't hurt anyone else.

\_\_\_\_\_ Love covers a multitude of sins.

\_\_\_\_\_ Love is blind.

3. What does it mean to live “the good life”? If an alien from another planet landed on earth and his assignment was to discover our chief values, to determine what it is that we humans consider “good” and “desirable,” what do you think he would say, just by looking around at all our advertisements, magazine covers, billboards, TV commercials, etc. here in the U.S.A.?

Now read **Proverbs 3:1-6** and **James 3:13-18**. How does our human notion of the “good life” compare and contrast with God’s idea of the good life? What are some key characteristics that strike you in these two passages?

4. In James 3:13-18, we see two clear contrasts between two vastly different kinds of wisdom. False wisdom is marked by “envy” and “selfish ambition” (3:14, 16). But true wisdom also reveals itself by several markers as well – including “deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom (3:13).” Those who follow wisdom are then described by seven attributes which result in “peace” for the community. Take a close look at these key attributes of the good and beautiful life according to the Bible. What does James mean by each word or phrase?

**Deeds done in humility**

**Pure**

**Peace-loving**

**Considerate**

**Submissive**

**Full of mercy & good fruit**

**Impartial**

**Sincere**

5. **Read 2 Corinthians 2:14-17**. James Navone says: “It is the beauty of truly believing, loving, and joyful Christians that captivates, motivates and transforms others. It is the radiant beauty of what is true and good in the gospel message that disarms and charms and transforms us” (*Enjoying God’s Beauty*). Why do so many seekers and unbelievers today reject the church as “*an aroma that brings death,*” instead of being attracted to it as “*an aroma that brings life*”? Were you first attracted to Jesus through the beautiful life of a Christian? What happened?
6. **Read Matthew 6:22-34** as you come to a close. This is Jesus’ description of the good and beautiful life. Take some time to share what you find most beautiful about our Lord Jesus. Then close in a time of prayerful adoration and praise.