

Philodemus On Piety

Post by “Don” of December 16, 2020 at 11:05 PM

προσευχεσθαι γαρ εν τωι Περί [Βιωυ] οικείον είναι [ημεί]ν φησί.

I promised something on prayer yesterday, so to fulfill my self-imposed obligation 😊, here's what Epicurus said about prayer according to column 26 of On Piety. The original is above and is mostly intact in the papyrus.

For he says in the *On Ways of Life*, προσευχεσθαι is οικείον for us.

προσευχεσθαι [proseukhesthai] means "prayer", specifically to offer prayers or vows; offer prayers or worship. The word can be broken down into pros- "toward" + eukhesthai "to pray"

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?do...ry=proseu/xomai>

This is, in fact, the word used to mean "pray" in the New Testament as well as previously in classical Greek. I'm looking forward to reading more about the manner of this praying.

And Epicurus says prayer is οικείον [oikeion] meaning "fitting, suitable, proper."

[http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?do...entry=oi\)kei=os](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?do...entry=oi)kei=os) (see definition IV)

So it would seem worship of the gods held some kind of benefit for Epicurus even if that benefit did not come from the gods themselves.

I'll dig into columns 26+ in the next few days and keep all posted. I'm intrigued.