

# Perspectives On "Proving" That Pleasure is "The Good"

Post by "Cassius" of December 24, 2022 at 5:33 AM

## [Quote from Don](#)

So, candidates for the telos/Chief Good were things like virtue, pleasure, wisdom. This is a select subset of traits or phenomena that could serve as the prime foundation for all choices and rejections. For a Stoic, virtue should be the foundation of this.

1 - And another candidate then and now would be "religion" or law of god.

2 - This is the point I come back to a lot when people express disappointment that there is not more "technique" or "therapy" preserved in Epicurean writing. It appears to me that the major concern of Epicurus and the key philosophical battle is not over "how to have a good time" but instead first establishing the foundation for all choice and avoidance in the first place. Both are important, but you never get to questions of how to pursue pleasure if you don't establish pleasure to be the goal in the first place. And that question was and still is the most controversial of them all.

The modern stoics want to totally gloss over and fudge that question, and we should make sure never to fall for the trap of sympathizing with them, because this is the key issue. Do you live for a "true world" beyond the senses, or for this one?