

Discussion of Matthew 7:6 “Pearls Before Swine (Epicureans?)”

Post by “Al-Hakiim von Grof” of January 22, 2025 at 4:34 PM

Lots of awesome ideas here!

Given that the New Testament explicitly states Paul interacted with epicureans ([Don](#) , good tie-in reference. I had completely forgotten the interaction of Paul with philosophers in Athens), and the fact that Matthew is reasonably dated to the end of the first century, which is fairly soon after Paul’s execution and at the tail end of him founding churches throughout the empire, I believe it’s a significant possibility that whoever authored the text was using dogs and swine both as an easily recognized (to Jews) example of the “unclean” AND as a reference to certain philosophical schools which stood at odds to Christianity and were thus “unclean” people with “unclean” ideas.

If so, it’s a brilliantly layered passage that conveys the author's meaning in a way that would easily be recognized by both Jew and Gentile converts without changing the words used. Quite clever.