

Sunday November 9, 2025 - Zoom Discussion 12:30 PM EST - Epicurus on Good And Evil

Post by "Kalosyni" of November 11, 2025 at 10:31 AM

[Quote from DaveT](#)

Furthermore when looking at the communal impact of an individual pursuing pleasure/good, "justice" in [PD31](#) doesn't address the small things in life that impact us and others, sometimes in a big way. The agreed upon "crimes", PD 31 applies. Kill and you go to jail. But cheat, or lie in mostly undetectable ways, say on income tax returns, and Epicureanism seems to fail the reality test of bad communal consequences of those seeking the pleasure of more after tax income (justified because the rich get away with it all the time). If enough people do the small stuff that society can't touch or punish, you have everyone out for themselves in one way or another. Could it be that a weakness in Epicurus' teaching is that it can't apply to any community larger than the Garden?

First I want to point out that right now it seems that Western civilization is experiencing a "morality problem" (especially in the US). It can be seen in social media, news media, entertainment media, as well as by those in political power. It seems that some people are beginning to lose their sense of "human decency".

Our current society is not running on an "Epicurean philosophical worldview" but on the remnants of a "Platonic and Judeo-Christian worldview" - which either looks to heaven as the best place to go, and/or the belief that wealth/nice possession are the highest goal in life.

So the question of "What is the best life?" and "What actions bring a life of well-being and joy here on earth?" are not being addressed. And the Epicurean philosophy can't apply to a wider number of people (beyond a "garden"), since the "Platonic/Judeo-Christian" worldview (with it's now twisted and unmoral thinking) pervades so much of the thinking of people who are vocal and expressing their thoughts to everyone else.