

Authorized Doctrines by Norman W. De Witt

Post by "Cassius" of September 6, 2021 at 4:55 PM

[Quote from Don](#)

Ah! That's the wrinkle when you start looking at the original text.

I agree with that comment, but I also think that Norman DeWitt had read more Greek in his lifetime up to writing that book than any ten of us, so it's probably always worth considering whether he didn't see some connotation in the Greek literature where that word occurs that isn't obvious to us just using the dictionaries.

I see here is the paragraph Nate is citing from (I don't see it on page 188 but might be in a footnote?) and it certainly looks like DeWitt thought it appropriate to hammer home the "patronage of princes" part. Gosh only knows at this point why, but I wouldn't bet my life that he didn't have a reason. Maybe just a word association in his own mind for that particular Greek.

Another false opinion that did not escape attention was what the New Testament calls "the deceitfulness of riches." In Authorized Doctrine 14 it is paired with the patronage of princes: "Although safety from the attacks of men has been secured to a certain degree by dynastic protection and abundance of means, that which comes of the retired life and withdrawal from the multitude is the most unalloyed." It may be mentioned that riches were condemned as deceitful in another way. Just as they failed as an assurance of safety, so they begot no worth-while happiness²² but merely administered to superfluous pleasures which removed no pain arising from want.

Only after these false opinions had been exposed did Epicurus arrive

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