

# Planning For A Weekly EpicureanFriends Zoom Meeting in 2022

**Post by "Cassius" of December 24, 2021 at 10:50 PM**

Ha -- "the telos of Epicureanfriends.com" 😊

I would describe that as a combination of the attitude of (1) Lucian in "striking a blow for Epicurus" and pursuing the attitude exhibited in "Alexander the Oracle-Monger" and of (2) Lucretius in using smart technology (his poem, our internet) to present the full meaning of Epicurean philosophy in its most fundamental form.

Sometimes I also think it can be expressed in thinking about how Epicurean philosophy differs as much from what is conveyed by "hedonism" as the stoics would say they differ from "stoicism." They deny that they are apathetic, and I would deny that a narrow focus on immediate physical gratification has much of anything to do with Epicurean philosophy.

Epicurus taught a full worldview, in which "pleasure" is only one part, and not what is generally conveyed by "hedonism" at all. As I see it, Epicurus used "pleasure" as a catch-all term for all agreeable feelings, mental and bodily, and on that level "pleasure" is a sweeping term that corresponds to and opposes "virtue" (as that is set up by the stoics and platonists) and "piety" (as that is set up by all those religions who suggest we should worship supernatural gods).

I think that's what both Lucian and Lucretius saw - a full worldview - and that really has very little to do with strategies for eating and drinking and relaxing. Those are significant but secondary to the deeper issues of where we spend eternity, whether we have free will, whether we need to worry about heaven and hell, and how to understand what knowledge is and our means of obtaining it, and how we organize our lives to attain maximum success in pursuing happiness through a proper understanding of (and action based on) those issues.