

Proselytising and pleasure: compatible?

Post by “smoothiekiwi” of January 6, 2022 at 4:34 PM

Hey all,

After only a few minutes delved into Norman DeWitt's book, I begin to understand why it's so recommended here. It certainly is an experience I wouldn't expect at all!

Nevertheless, I'm a bit confused about the part where the author writes about the proselytising of Epicureans, specifically: the handbooks and scrolls written by Epicurus. How is this compatible with the pursuit of pleasure? If I want to enjoy pleasure with the least amount of pain, I won't go out into the world and proclaim to know the truth. Sometimes, I walk around at the r/exchristian subreddit, and many people there would be very injured if I began proselytising on the glory of Jesus. If I now imagine exactly the same situation, but with ex-Epicureans (for whatever reason), I would inflict a lot of pain on me if I reopened their past wounds.

So, to sum it up: how does proselytising and spreading the message of Epicurus help me in my personal pursuit of pleasure? Obviously, I would tell my friend if he's interested in it, because I would gain a lot of pleasure from that. But I most certainly wouldn't gain pleasure from going around, from door to door, and spreading the word of Epicurus.

(And yes, I have the feeling that I have some sort of logical fallacy here, but I'm not sure where...)