

# What Are The Possible Reasons (And Of These, The Most Likely) Why The List of 40 Principal Doctrines Does Not Feature A Statement Explicitly Stating Pleasure To Be The Goal of Life?

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Since Burley's purpose in the *De vita* was didactic and his approach moralistic, an important part of each biography lists the man's notable sayings. These may be precepts, definitions, maxims, or memorable dicta, and are for the most part non-controversial statements of universal application and general admonitions suitable for all civilized persons. If doctrines antipathetic to Christian teaching are included, they are accompanied by words of warning. Thus, after praising several maxims of Epicurus, Burley adds:

Nevertheless he was in error on more points than most philosophers, for he thought that God has no concern for human affairs, and he said that pleasure is the highest good and that men's souls perish with their bodies.

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