

## Are the Gods Totally Painless? Does Calling Us To "Continuous Pleasure" Mean Totally Painless?

principle, which is stated negatively and positively as follows: "First of all, believing the divine being to be a creature incorruptible and blessed, just as the universal idea of the divine being is outlined, associate no idea with it that is alien to incorruptibility or incompatible with blessedness and cultivate every thought concerning it that can have the effect of preserving its blessedness along with incorruptibility." <sup>6</sup> In this translation the word *incorruptible* has been retained for two reasons: first, Epicurus did not believe the gods to be inherently immortal and never called them immortal, though Lucretius and others

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did; second, the Greek word is the same that is rendered "incorruptible" in the New Testament, 1 Corinthians 15.