

Klavan's "Gateway To Epicureanism" (Note: The Title Is Part Of A "Gateway" Series - The Author Himself Is Strongly Anti-Epicurean)

Post by "Cassius" of April 15, 2026 at 4:05 PM

There's a second podcast which i haven't been able to listen to yet, but for which there is a full transcript [here](#).

Couple of highlights:

The Failure of Epicureanism as a System of Belief

In the preface of *Gateway to the Epicureans*, Spencer Clavin asserts:

Quote

"Epicureanism has proven a total failure... the idea that Epicurus had that once we cleared away the religious horizon, we would all be free to live these contented, placid lives, I think that has been just totally refuted."

[31:02]

Clavin critiques the inadequacy of Epicurean atomism in explaining the complexities of modern physics and the ethical shortcomings in addressing contemporary existential crises. He contends that the simplistic materialism of Epicurus fails to satisfy the human quest for meaning, contributing to widespread despair and societal issues like declining birth rates.

The Importance of Studying Epicurean Letters Today

Addressing the perceived obsolescence of Epicureanism, **Spencer Clavin** advocates for the continued relevance of Epicurus's letters:

Quote

"...unless you understand that you are swimming in water, you actually can't decide whether to get onto land."

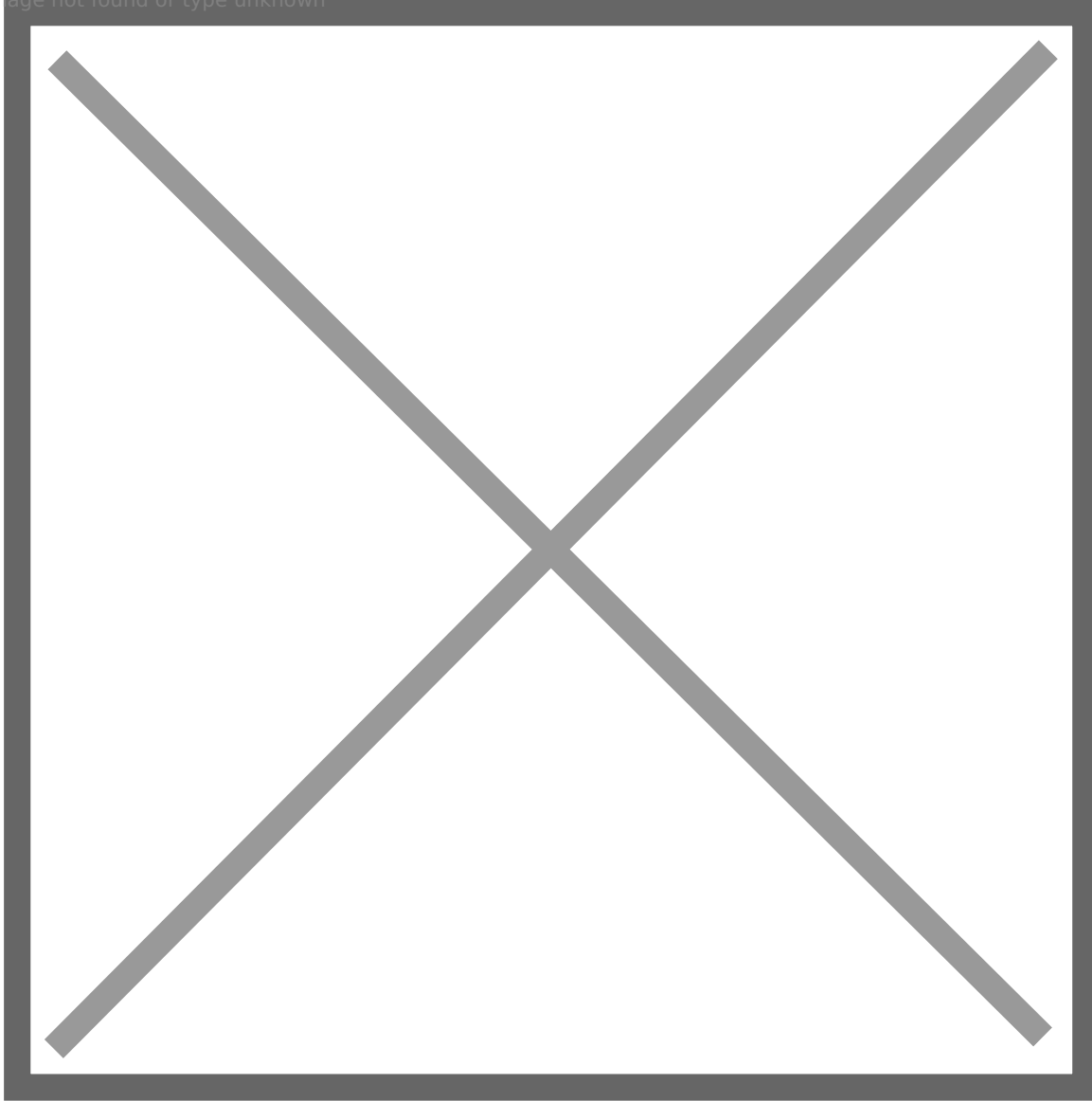
[34:03]

Clavin argues that studying Epicureanism provides critical self-awareness of the prevailing materialistic worldview, enabling individuals to evaluate and possibly transcend its limitations. By understanding Epicurean foundations, one can better navigate and critique the philosophical

underpinnings of modern society.

it's episode 356 listenable directly at the link below.

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<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/5040-klavan-s-gateway-to-epicureanism-note-the-title-is-part-of-a-gateway-series-the/?postID=39413#post39413>