

# Discussion Plan For Chapter 12 "The New Hedonism" (Norman DeWitt's "Epicurus And His Philosophy")

Post by "Cassius" of August 30, 2019 at 4:39 PM

Thank you JAWS!

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## A SUMMARY OF CHAPTER XII: THE NEW HEDONISM FROM EPICURUS & HIS PHILOSOPHY BY NORMAN WENTWORTH DEWITT

Much of what is discussed here is stated by Epicurus in the middle section of his Letter to Menoeceus. I recommend having a copy of the letter nearby to refer to while reading this summary. The letter to Menoeceus, principle doctrines, and the Vatican sayings can all be found on [NewEpicurean.com](http://NewEpicurean.com).

### THE "SUMMUM BONUM" FALLACY

It is often misunderstood that Epicurus taught that pleasure was the greatest good. What Epicurus really taught was that *life itself* is the greatest good and that pleasure is the *telos*. *Telos* means end as in fulfillment or culmination rather than termination. DeWitt explains that this misunderstanding stems from limitations of the Latin language. Latin did not have a word that corresponds to *telos* and thus *summum bonum* was used to describe the role of pleasure. *Summum bonum* means the chief good.