

THE KEY TO EVERLASTING LIFE

Matthew 5:21-26

MAN'S IDEAS

Epicureanism –

- Founder - Epicurus (307) BC
- "In a broad sense, it is a system of ethics embracing every conception or form of life that can be traced to the principles of his philosophy."

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Epicureanism>

MAN'S IDEAS

Epicureanism (continued)

- "... epicureanism claims that we should seek to maximize our own pleasure (mainly by removing pain from our lives). Pleasure as Epicurus regarded it, was the beginning and end of a blessed life."

• <https://dailystoic.com/epicureanism-stoic>

MAN'S IDEAS

Stoicism

- Founder – Zino of Citium, early 3rd century BC.
- Philosophy of endaimonic virtue ethics, based on logic and views of the natural world.
- Endaimonia – "state or condition of 'good spirit', and which is commonly translated as 'happiness' or 'welfare'."

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stoicism>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eudaimonia>

MAN'S IDEAS

Stoicism (continued)

- "Stoicism claims that living justly and virtuously is the highest good that anyone can experience, and that pleasure and pain are to be treated indifferently."

• <https://dailystoic.com/epicureanism-stoic>

MAN'S IDEAS

Atheism

- "It is a lack of belief in gods."
- "Atheism is not an affirmative belief that there is no god nor does it answer any other question about what a person believes. It is simply a rejection of the assertion that there are gods."

<https://www.atheists.org/activism/resources/about-atheism/>

MAN'S IDEAS

Agnosticism

- "... philosophical view, generally meaning that the existence and/or nature of any specific god, entity, spirituality, or any ultimate reality is unknown or unknowable to humanity."

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agnosticism>

MAN'S IDEAS

Secular Humanism

- Founder – Paul Kurtz
- "Secular humanism is *comprehensive*, touching every aspect of life including issues of values, meaning, and identity."
- "Secular humanism is *nonreligious*, espousing no belief in a realm or beings imagined to transcend ordinary experience."
- <https://secularhumanism.org/what-is-secular-humanism/>

MAN'S IDEAS

- Secular Humanism (continued)
- "Secular humanism is a *life stance*, or what Council for Secular Humanism founder Paul Kurtz has termed a *eupraxsophy*: a body of principles suitable for orienting a complete human life. As a *secular life stance*, secular humanism incorporates the Enlightenment principle of *individualism*, which celebrates emancipating the individual from traditional controls by family, church, and state, increasingly empowering each of us to set the terms of his or her own life."
- <https://secularhumanism.org/what-is-secular-humanism/>

THE KEY TO EVERLASTING LIFE

Christ's words are the final, exclusive, and ultimate authority in religion!

- "I say unto you ..." – Matthew 5:20, 22, 26, etc.
- He spoke true religion – Hebrews 1:1-2
- Man's word means nothing – Matthew 15:7-9
- Creeds, prayer books, tracts, commentaries, etc.

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Christ's words are of Divine Origin

- It came from God – Romans 1:16-17; John 1:1,14; Hebrews 1:1-2
- The Holy Spirit inspired men to speak – 2 Peter 1:19-21
- God revealed it and men wrote it down – Ephesians 3:1-6
 - Revelation – verse 3
 - Apostles and Prophets – verse 5
 - Men read it and understand it – verse 4

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His words were to be taught

- Matthew 28:19-20 – "Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever *I commanded you*; and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."
- 2 Timothy 2:2 – Teach His word to others

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His Words will judge us

- John 12:48 – "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my sayings, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I spake, the same shall judge him in the last day."

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We must abide in His teaching

- 2 John 9 – "Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of Christ, hath not God: he that abideth in the teaching, the same hath both the Father and the Son."
- This includes His own spoken words and those His apostles spoke as His ambassadors.

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We cannot go beyond it

- 1 Corinthians 4:6 – "Now these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes; that in us ye might learn not [to go] beyond the things which are written; that no one of you be puffed up for the one against the other."
- 2 John 9
- Acts 13:4ff – Word, the faith, right ways, teaching

THE KEY TO EVERLASTING LIFE

His word is Everlasting

- Matthew 24:35 – "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."
- The words and works of men come to naught – Acts 5:33-39

THE KEY TO EVERLASTING LIFE

- His words are the only standard for man
- His words will last for ever
- His words will judge us
- His words are the one and only key!

- Have you opened the door?