



THE ADVENT

Joy in Christ

9“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

John 15: 9-11



Let me tell you a
story.



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“All men seek happiness. This is without exception. Whatever different means they employ, they all tend to this end. The cause of some going to war, and of others avoiding it, is the same desire in both, attended with different views. The will never takes the least step but to this object. This is the motive of every action of every man, even of those who hang themselves.”

Blaise Pascal



POOR
EPICURUS
“Avoid The Pain”



THE ADVENT

Joy in Christ

THE STOICS

“Embrace The Pain”





**“Avoid
The Pain”**

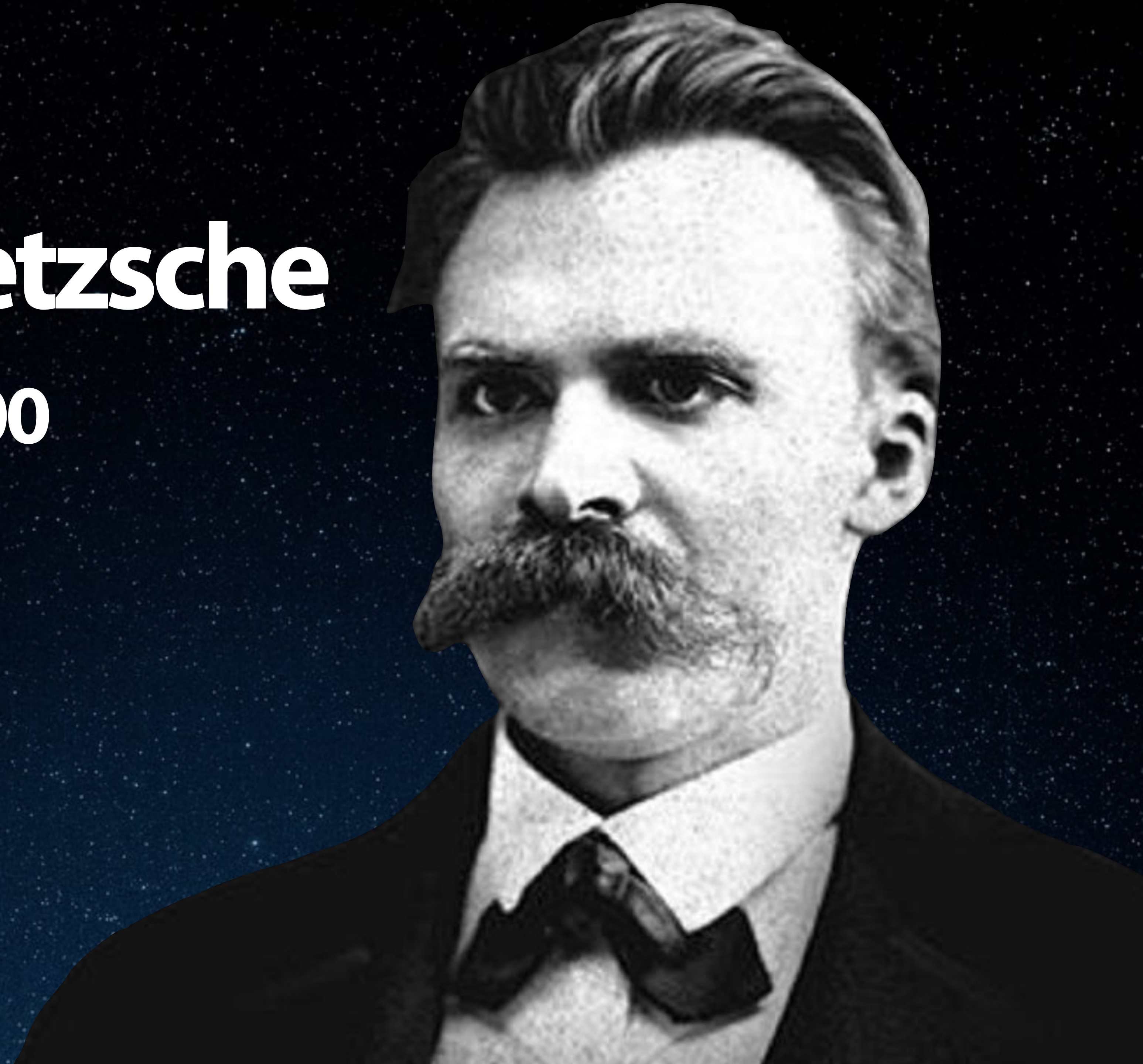
The Epicurians

**“Embrace
The Pain”**

The Stoics

Friedrich Nietzsche

1844-1900





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Today's Epicureans

1. Accuse God. "If God exists, I hope He has a good excuse."

Woody Allen

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A. Failure to launch

B. Marriage rate

C. Birth rate

D. 125,000 Abortions

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B. Marriage rate

C. Birth rate

D. 125,000 Abortions

3. The Grievance Culture



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“I don't want to achieve immortality through my work; I want to achieve immortality through not dying. I don't want to live on in the hearts of my countrymen; I want to live on in my apartment.”

Woody Allen



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Applying the Word

God is “a dynamic, pulsating activity, a life, almost a kind of drama. Almost, if you will not think me irreverent, a kind of dance. The union between the Father and the Son is such a live concrete thing that this union itself is also a person.”

C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

“And now, what does it matter? It matters more than anything else in the world. The whole dance or drama or pattern of this three-Personal life is being played out in each one of us; or putting it the other way round, each of us has got to enter that pattern, take his place in that dance. There is no other way to the happiness for which we are made.”

C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

“Keep back nothing. Nothing that you have not given away will really be yours. Nothing in you that has not died will ever be raised from the dead. Look for yourself and you will find in the long run only hatred, loneliness, despair, rage, ruin and decay. But look for Christ and you will find Him, and with Him everything else thrown in.”

C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

“Take delight in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart.” Psalm 37:4

“Those who look to him for help will be radiant with joy...” Psalm 34:5

“whoever trusts in the LORD, happy is he.”
Proverbs 16:20



THE ADVENT

Hope • Peace • Love • Joy