

August 28, 2026 #165

Dear Brethren and Friends,

Special Announcements:

Sept 29 (Tuesday) – 5th Tuesday Dinner. We will honor Past Masters at this dinner. We will also have a ritual language competition afterwards. Come ready to see how well you remember.

Saying of the Week

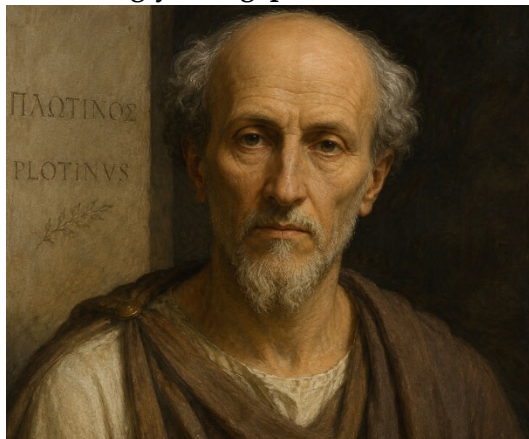
Everyday you have the choice to: complain or give thanks; blame others or examine yourself; feed your fear or strengthen your faith; speak poorly of others or bless them; give up or remain steadfast; assume the worst or think about the possibilities; hold onto bitterness or choose forgiveness, react in the flesh or walk by the Spirit; seek people's approval or seek God's; lean on your understanding or trust the Lord; live like the world or live by God's Word.

My Ramblings by W.: Scott A. MacDonald © 2026

The Gap

When looking at ancient philosophers, there is a fairly significant gap between Zeno of Citium (334 to 262 BC) and Plotinus (204 to 262 AD) and the development of any major new philosophies. Although there were many philosophers, they were only looking at different versions of stoicism and Epicureanism.

Interestingly, this gap includes the birth and death of the person we call Jesus.



Plotinus was one of the first ancient philosophers to explore the “divine intellect” and an exploration of the soul which connects the spiritual and material realms. Prior to this, the major philosophies looked inward to man and his reaction to the world.

He considered his work to be a development and interpretation of Plato's philosophy. His followers were called Platonists.

Plotinus viewed the material world as the lowest level of reality. He didn't necessarily view the real world as evil but recognized its imperfection.

In his view, the goal of philosophy was not simply to acquire knowledge. It was to purify the soul, overcome excessive attachment to material things, develop virtue, contemplate truth, and ultimately experience union with The One.

Plotinus called this ultimate experience “union” with The One – a mystical experience in which the distinction between the individual and the ultimate source temporarily disappears.

Plotinus believed that everything comes from one perfect divine source, and that the purpose of human life is to rise above our attachment to the material world and return spiritually toward that source.

Stoicism taught people how to master themselves; Plotinus went further and asked what the self ultimately is and where it comes from.

His ideas also had a profound influence on later Christian, Jewish, and Islamic philosophy, particularly the concepts of a transcendent God, the spiritual nature of humanity, and the soul's ascent toward God.

Plotinus believed that we spend too much of our lives distracted by the outside world – possessions, status, conflict, and other people's opinions. He encouraged people to turn inward, examine themselves, and discover what is truly important.

For modern life, you could express his idea as:

“In a world full of noise, take time to look within.”

That makes Plotinus surprisingly relevant today – particularly in an age of social media, constant notifications, political conflict, and information overload.

It also connects nicely with the Stoic idea of self-mastery: instead of trying to control the world around you, begin by understanding and governing yourself.

Plotinus and Freemasonry

<u>Plotinus</u>	<u>Freemasonry</u>
“The One” – ultimate source of all existence	The Grand Architect of the Universe – a symbol of the divine creative principle
Know yourself through inward reflection	Self-examination and self-improvement
Rise above material distractions	Mastering passions and improving one's character
Seek wisdom and truth	Seeking Light and knowledge
The soul can ascend toward higher reality	The mason’s journey toward greater spiritual and moral understanding
Virtue prepares the soul for higher understanding	Brotherly love, relief, and truth develop moral character

I found this prayer I thought was powerful:

Heavenly Father, I place my future in Your hands. Darkness has tried to bring delays and closed doors, but You are the God who makes a way. I declare: my destiny belongs to You. Open doors no one can shut, remove every obstacle that blocks my steps, and lead me into Your perfect plan. Surround my journey with Your light, and let no curse, no attack, and no scheme against me succeed. In His name I pray. Amen.

Lodge Calendar

Sept 1 (Tuesday) - Stated Communication. Dinner at 6 pm lodge at 7 pm.

Sept 8 (Tuesday) - Fellowship with dinner at 6 pm.

Sept 15 (Tuesday) - Stated Communication. Dinner at 6 pm lodge at 7 pm.

Sept 22 (Tuesday) - Fellowship with dinner at 6 pm.

Sept 29 (Tuesday) - 5th Tuesday Dinner. We will honor Past Masters at this dinner. We will also have a ritual language competition afterwards. Come ready to see how well you remember.

Oct 6 (Tuesday) - Stated Communication. Dinner at 6 pm lodge at 7 pm.

Oct 13 (Tuesday) - Fellowship with dinner at 6 pm.

October 15 (Thursday) - District 12 meeting at Tulsa Lodge #71 located at 5925 E 9th St, Tulsa, OK 74112. Dinner at 6 pm with meeting to follow at 7 pm.

Oct 20 (Tuesday) - Stated Communication. Dinner at 6 pm lodge at 7 pm.

Oct 27 (Tuesday) - Fellowship with dinner at 6 pm.

Oct 31 (Saturday) - Broken Arrow Spooktacular - 5 pm to 9 pm. The lodge will be handing out candy and popcorn. We need lots of volunteers to help. The popcorn will be made at the lodge beginning mid-afternoon. Wear your favorite costume if you like.

Dec 1 (Tuesday) - Lodge election night and Stated Meeting. Dinner at 6 pm, Lodge at 7 pm.

Dec 6 (Sunday) - Officer Installation. 2 pm light refreshments to follow.

Dec 29 (Tuesday) - 5th Tuesday Dinner

See you at Lodge!

Sincerely,

W.: Scott A. MacDonald, Treasurer and Membership Calling Chairman