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Εἴ τις ἐρωτήσειέ με· τί τῶν ἐν τῷ βίῳ κάλλιστον; εἴποιμι ἂν ὅτι φίλοι (Ερ. CIII)

Author's note: This work was originally submitted as a doctoral thesis in 2005. For the present book, it has been possible to introduce a few minor bibliographical updates, but the body of the work remains as in the initial thesis.