

## Eleutheros Newsletter

June 2026

### Thoughts on Romans

[3:14](#) *Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.*

In [verse 13](#) the Apostle described some of the *characteristics* of those who are unsaved, giving the Roman believers a picture of the stench of “an open sepulchre,” tongues that naturally “use deceit,” and “poison of asps (snakes) under lips”.

Now Paul begins to explain (again, in picture form) what various members of their bodies do.

The first destructive activity is cursing (ὀρᾶ in the Greek). This unusual word is found only here in the New Testament, but is found in ancient Greek (Homer), meaning “a curse” or “a malediction.” In the Greek papyri it is used to describe the reaction of a condemned man in the presence of a Roman emperor (P Oxy I. 33).

Cursing is the norm in the life of unregenerate man, but it is never acceptable to the believer. Regarding parents, Jesus said, “For God commanded, saying, Honor thy father and mother; and He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death” ([Matthew 15:4](#)).

Regarding enemies, Jesus said, “Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thy enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be children of your Father which is in heaven” ([Matthew 5:43-45a](#)).

The second problem Paul describes in this verse is bitterness (πικρία in the Greek). It is interesting that the author to the Hebrews uses bodily parts, as did Paul earlier in Romans 3, to describe the uprising of bitterness: “Wherefore lift up the **hands** which hang down, and the feeble **knees**; And make straight paths for your **feet**, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed. Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of *bitterness* springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled ([Hebrews 12:12-15](#)).

These verses in Hebrews are describing what reactions people can sometimes have against God!

To summarize, cursing and bitterness may be the norm for the world of today, but the Scriptures declare that they should never have a place in any relationship that a

believer might have: not with parents ([Matthew 15:4](#)), enemies ([Matthew 5:43-45a](#)), or God (see [Hebrews 12:8-15](#)) Who sometimes chastens His own dear children.

May all the church today take heed to these things and seek to exemplify the words of this great hymn!

### **Make Me a Blessing**

*Out in the highways and byways of life,*

*Many are weary and sad.*

*Carry the sunshine where darkness is rife,*

*Making the sorrowing glad.*

*Give as 'twas given to you in your need,*

*Love as the Master loved you!*

*Be to the helpless a helper indeed,*

*Unto your mission be true!*

*Make me a blessing, make me a blessing,*

*Out of my life may Jesus shine;*

*Make me a blessing, O Savior, I pray!*

*Make me a blessing to someone today!*

**Ira B. Wilson**