

Eleutheros Newsletter

May 2026

Thoughts on Romans

3:13 *Their throat is an open sepulcher; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips.*

Having pointed out the universality of man's sin ("For we have proved both the Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin"—[3:9b](#)) and the inability of man to do good things ("They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one"—[3:12](#)), the Apostle now begins a discussion on just how disgusting sin is.

In another context Paul employs word pictures of body parts and functions in describing the use of spiritual gifts by believers: "For the body is not one member, but many. If the **foot** says, Because I am not the **hand**, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the **ear** shall say, Because I am not the **eye**, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an **eye**, where were the **hearing**? If the whole were **hearing**, where were the **smelling**? But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it pleased Him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now they are many members, yet but one body. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee; nor again the **hand** of the **feet**, I have no need of you. Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be feebler, are necessary ([I Corinthians 12:14-22](#)).

Used properly, a person's throat, tongue, and lips can be important in glorifying God and being a blessing to other people. David wrote, "To see Thy Power and Thy glory, so as I have seen in the sanctuary. Because Thy lovingkindness is better than life, my **lips** shall praise Thee. Thus, I will bless Thee while I live: I will lift my hands in Thy name.

Here Paul lists **throat**, **tongues**, and **lips**. These parts of human bodies, given by God, are consistently used by all the unbelieving people to produce language that is very offensive to holy God. It is described as the stench of "an open sepulcher," the destructiveness of "deceit," and "poison."

What a contrast we see here! Unregenerate souls are incapable of doing any good thing and their speech is disgusting to God. Believers, by God's grace, can declare praise to the God Who saved them, whether they be Jews or Gentiles!

May the words of Scripture cause today's Church to recognize how depraved and disgusting we were before regeneration! And now, as God's children, may we praise Him daily for all He has done for us!

May the words of this great hymn express our daily attitude!

O for a Thousand Tongues

Charles Wesley

O for a thousand tongues to sing

My great Redeemer's praise,

The glories of my God and King,

The Triumphs of His grace!

My gracious Master and my God,

Assist me to proclaim,

To spread through all the earth abroad,

The honors of Thy name!