

# Job 20:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Though wickedness be sweet in his mouth, though he hide it under his tongue;

## Analysis

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'Though wickedness be sweet in his mouth, though he hide it under his tongue.' Zophar describes how the wicked savor sin: 'wickedness' (רָעָה, ra'ah) is 'sweet' (יָמִיִּיק, yamtiq) in his mouth, hidden under his tongue (תַּחַת לְשׁוֹנוֹ, tachat leshono). The imagery: rolling sin like a delicacy on the palate. This echoes Proverbs 9:17 — 'stolen waters are sweet.' Sin does offer temporary pleasure (Hebrews 11:25), which makes it tempting. Zophar's theology is accurate: people do enjoy sin momentarily. His application to Job is unfounded: assuming Job secretly savors wickedness. Without evidence, this is slander. The Reformed understanding of indwelling sin acknowledges ongoing struggle without assuming specific secret wickedness in others.

## Historical Context

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Ancient peoples used taste metaphors for moral experiences. Zophar employs this to suggest Job secretly enjoys hidden sins, using orthodox theology to make unproven accusations.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

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